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## PDI, Quiz Bee Foundation search for best schools

By Margaux C. Ortiz

JOURNALISM WORKSHOP ON GUYITO sculptures?

If you're one of the top 20 public high schools that excel in science and technology, you don't have to leave to choose... you'll get both.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

## Chilean police arrest ex-Peru leader Fujimori

SANTIAGO—FORMER PERUVIAN PRESIDENT Alberto Fujimori, wanted in Peru on corruption and human rights abuse charges, was arrested early Monday just hours after his unexpected announcement in Chile, police said.

Fujimori, 67, was detained on an arrest warrant issued by Judge Orlando Alvarez,

Tuesday, November 8, 2005 ★ vol. 29 / no. 333
www.inq7.net

## *Peso again the darling of Asian markets*

SINGAPORE—THE PHILIPPINE peso is looking irresistible right like the clothing or Asian currency markets, thanks to strong inflows of cash from overseas Filipino workers, higher interest rates and the implementation of the expanded value-added tax (VAT) law.

The peso is on course to end the year as Asia's best-performing currency, although this looked uncertain just a few months ago.

Between May and early July, the peso dived about 4.5 percent against the dollar and came within a whisker of hitting a record low as a political crisis simmered in Manila.

But with President Macapagal-Arroyo surviving an attempt by opponents to oust her over allegations of election cheating and graft, sentiment has improved.

"It don't see anything short of another political blowout that would make the peso depreciate back to the levels it was trading at during the political crisis," said Deutsche Bank currency strategist Miliza Ruiz.

The peso had firmed up about 2 percent in the past month and hit a five-month peak at around 54.51 against the US dollar last week. It closed at 54.68

# GMA backtracks on wage hike issue

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo bows in prayer before the start of a meeting with members of the Foreign Chambers of Commerce and local businessmen at Hotel Intercontinental in Makati City.

## Won't back legislated pay raise

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Bonnet W. Domingo and Christine O. Avendaño

WARNINGS FROM economic managers and advisers of the adverse effects of raising wages on the viability of businesses have prompted President Macapagal-Arroyo to retreat from her earlier announcement that she would push for a legislated wage increase.

In a meeting with a group of businessmen after speaking before the country's major business organizations, the President clarified her position on the legislated wage increase being asked by labor groups in light of the price increases brought about by the expanded value-added tax, Trade Secretary Peter Favila said.

Favila said the President did not endorse a legislated wage increase but instead asked Congress to ensure that all businesses fully complied with the average 6 percent increase in wages granted by the regional wage boards (RWBs) in July.

Labor groups have been calling for an adjustment of at least P125 in the minimum wages.

*Related: Is Ms. Arroyo man back.*

## Victim of wrongful arrest urged to sue policemen

By Dona Pazzibugan and Luige A. del Puerto

THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POlice wants to move on but the man it mistook for Abu Sayyaf leader Khadafy Janjalani says his family won't let the PNP get off so easily.

Antonio Cura, 43, yesterday said he was considering filing charges of wrongful arrest against the policemen who held his wife and four children, aged 5 to 18, at gunpoint as they hauled him away from their home in Cembrangga Ilihigay on Saturday.

"We will file charges if we can," Cura said in Filipino on DZMM radio.

"No one has told me 'sorry' [to me. When they told me that I should] not file charges because they did not hear me. I said if it were up to me, I would not file charges. The problem is my family, my wife, [and] again because my children really took it badly. They want to file counterclaims."

Unlawful arrest is punishable by one to six months in jail and a fine not exceeding P500.

On Saturday, President Macapagal-Arroyo quickly announced the supposed capture of Janjalani—a one-armed bandit also known as Commander Pacol—only to cast a later embarrassing journalist Arlyn dela Cruz, who knows Janjalani from way back, told the police they had the wrong man.

Gabriela's rights arm had been empowered. In Cura's case, it was his left arm that was missing.

Cura, reported to be a subregion [probably aforesaid], said he had just gotten home and was entering the gate of his house when three policemen accosted him. He did not see any explosives on them.

"They barked me inside a van like a pig. They hit me on the head three times. Three they told me I

WITH THEIR HANDS painted red, militant women call for a thorough investigation of the rape complaint filed against six US servicemen during a rally near the US Embassy in Manila.

## DOJ to serve subpoenas on 6 US Marines today

By Philip C. Tubeza and Tonnette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE WILL serve subpoenas today on six American servicemen accused of raping a 22-year-old Filipina at the Subic Bay Freeport in Zambales on Nov. 1, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said yesterday.

Gonzalez said the detectives would be summoned to appear before the Olongapo City prosecutor for a preliminary investigation either on Nov. 17 or 18. The suspects have 10 days to file their counteraffidavits and answer the rape charge against them.

Gonzalez said Department of Foreign Affairs officials would serve the subpoenas to the US Embassy, which has custody of the suspects. He added that while the government wanted custody of the Americans, DFA protocol arrangements with US officials provided that they be held by the embassy.

"We predict it that way but we have to resolve this matter together with the DFA because there are diplomatic implications involved here. In fact, the subpoenas will have to be served through the DFA and the DFA will have to serve it," Gonzalez said.

"They [US Marines] have no reason to refuse the subpoena of the prosecution. They have to file their counteraffidavits and present themselves before the prosecutor. The prosecution will not

## *Erap wants to attend class reunion*

By Nelson S. Flores

THE MOST FAMOUS GRADE school dropout of the Universidad de Manila University wants to take a leave from room-ordered detention so he could take part in the golden jubilee celebration of High School Class of 1955.

Former President Joseph Estrada, through his lawyers Rene Saguisag, yesterday asked the Sandiganbayan to allow him to attend the celebration next week.

Estrada, who was ousted through "people power" in January 2001, is facing plunder and perjury

## Defensor tells Samar environmentalists to file suit

By Blanche S. Rivera

SENDING FEAR ON HIS DEFiant swallow hats, Imee Pimentel's company to resume logging operations inside the Samar National Park, Environment Secretary Michael T. Defensor yesterday challenged the citizens to take their grievances to court.

Defensor, who signed the order allowing San Jose Timber Corp. (SJTC) to cut trees inside the protected forest, maintained that Nicole's firm had a right to log in the 95,370-hectare area covered by its timber licensing agreement (TLA).

"If they feel that what we did was wrong, they should [sic] it legally," Defensor told the forestry officials yesterday.

"They should not contest that in my confirmation," said Defensor, who had faced tough sailing at the Commission on Appointments, of which Estrada is a member.

Defensor said Estrada had caused the loss of his company during the former's impeachment concerning logging concessions but Defensor's following the Death Bonds that killed and displaced hundreds in Aurora and Quezon.

He said he told senators during the hearings of the Senate committee on environment and the committee of the whole that he would look into Estrada's complaints concerning his TLA.

Estrada had asked four senators of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to lift the moratorium on logging

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2005

**WEATHER FORECAST**

# Second FRONTPAGE

# 'We cannot surrender to apathy'

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE PUBLIC'S GROWING INDIFFERENCE TO the unresolved political crisis bedeviling the Arroyo administration has disappointed the country's major Catholic congregations.

"We cannot surrender to apathy. We cannot surrender to dishonesty," Bro. Manuel de Leon, executive of the Association of Major Religious Superiors of the Philippines (AMRSP), told the Inquirer yesterday.

The statement echoed that of the Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines (CEAP), the umbrella organization of schools that include dozens in Manila University, De La Salle University, San Beda College, Ateneo de Manila University, St. Scholastica's College and the University of Santo Tomas.

The AMRSP, which represents 350 religious congregations nationwide, met in a closed-door general assembly on the Ateneo campus in Quezon City the whole day Sunday. The theme of the conference was "Discernment: Our Response to the National Situation."

A total of 306 superiors and representatives of congregations like the Benedictines, Franciscans, Dominicans, Jesuits, Lasallians (brothers) and Augustinians (sisters) in attendance.

At the height several months ago of the political crisis that continues to haunt the administration, the AMRSP asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to "voluntarily resign and help bring about a smooth political transition."

During the initial "clearing of statements" on Sunday, De Leon said the assembly acknowledged the "deepening feeling of indifference" among the public, even as questions on the legitimacy of Mrs. Arroyo's election victory has gone unresolved unanswered.

Like the public, the religious sector has accumulated disillusioning of corruption in the administration, opposition, career politicians and even the media, according to De Leon, who is the head of the Marist brothers locally.

"It seems that the main concern of the people is merely survival," he said.

De Leon said the congregations agreed they could not afford to also wallow in the "feeling of helplessness" that had spread among the people, but instead remained hopeful the political crisis would be resolved soon with "nonviolence and compassion for the poor."

"We tend to politicize on prophetic role," he said. "We tend to pray and discern and draw our faith and beliefs in concrete action."

De Leon said the AMRSP would conduct a series of dialogues with other Church leaders, Catholic educators, ecclesiastical communities, students and other personalities "good will."

The key is to underscore the public on the issues and unite up with a unified position, he said.

This is also the course of action the CEAP will take when it holds a general assembly this month to tackle the national situation.

The positions taken by the AMRSP and the CEAP appeared to dipose, however, from the official stand of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, which has refrained fully refused to join the clamor for Mr. Arroyo's ouster.

The CBCP in an official statement in July left short of asking Mr. Arroyo to resign. The statement, it was noted then, helped defuse the political tension when it called for a search for the truth about the May 2004 elections, but critics saw it as vague and a concession ways for the Independent disengage themselves from the controversy.

Msgr. Crisy Santos, CEAP chair for Metro Manila, earlier said the CEAP stand was actually in accord with the CBCP statement.

CITIZENS' CONGRESS, OR KANGAROO COURT?

# *GMA 'trial' starts today*

By Norman Bordadora

COMMITTEE OF THE CITIZENS' Congress for Truth and Accountability have received seats for the President Macapagal-Arroyo or her representative when it starts hearing evidence on electoral fraud, graft and corruption and human rights violations against the chief executive on today.

The opening of the tribunal – dubbed as an inverse congress by its organized leaders and a kangaroo court by the administration – will hear and receive evidence against Ms Arroyo that pro-impeachment congressman Salvador Escudero, after the complaints were junked by the House committee on justice in August.

"President Arroyo a fortunate that she has this opportunity to air her side. President (Ferdinand) Marcos and President (Joseph) Estrada didn't have the same opportunity before they were ousted," said Tagaig Province Rep. Mar Peter Cagampan, one of the leaders of the failed impeachment proceedings at the House.

Cagampan, House Minority Leader Francis Escudero and Bataan rights lawyer Romeo Capulong will present the pieces of evidence of culpable violation of the Constitution, betrayal of public trust, and involvement in graft and corruption against Ms Arroyo at the University of the Philippines Theater this morning.

The CCTH's hearings will be on Nov. 8, 9, 15 and 16 and will cover evidence of electoral fraud, political killings and human rights violations committed and coverup that involving the President.

"The congressmen's role will only be to turn over the evidences and present the cases before... [as well as] resource persons," Cagampan said.

"It's the absence of witnesses, at least we can present the information... information that reasonable and even legal minds might find acceptable," he said.

The citizens' congress will be led by a 11-person "presidium" led by former Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr., and will be attended by some still delegates.

"We have reserved seats for the President or her representatives. But with or without them, we will have to continue ascertaining the truth," said Dr. Maria Serena Diokno, a history professor at the UP and spokesperson of the CCTH controversies.

On the eve of the opening of the citizens' congress, some 100 members of the People's Coalition for National Survival moved to offer a minute's prayer on the President for the "continuing crisis of usurpation of authority."

The marching orders to "unveil" the lawyers urged the veteran Conservative Samuel Aguas during the PCNS national assembly at the Club Filipino in Greenhills, San Juan.

"GMA is a lame president. She cannot invoke immunity from suit because she does not have it," according to Lando Montoya, leader of the anti-Arroyo People's Coalition for Survival.

President under the former's Executive Order 292, some unveil is a resignation or not then a private citizen can initiate on a person who is actually committing a crime, or about to commit acts of treason or rebellion. It is punishable crime to believe that the person has actually committed a crime. A person who is arrested by another private person must be brought to the nearest police station or jail for detention and legal procedures.

*With JLT, Inq7 and Wi Carmenia*

# Air Force delivers 3,682 books to Jolo

By Nikko Dizon

HOW MANY BOOKS DO 13,000 PUPILS make?

A total of 3,682—which required a C-130, the Philippine Air Force's biggest cargo plane, to transport them all from Manila to Jolo.

"It's the first time we had this many books sent to our recipients," Carol Cupan of the Basilan Civil of Makati told the Inquirer in a phone interview yesterday.

The Rotary Club, in partnership with Pittsburgh-based Brother's Brother Foundation, has been running a nationwide literacy program called Books Across the Sea (BATS) since 1988.

Recently, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) extended assistance to BATS and funded a three-year project with the Rotary Club to distribute books specifically to public schools in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), Cupan said.

Cupan said the Jolo facility delivery was the first in the province of Sooth Adventist under the USAID-funded BATS.

Cupan said the books were brand-new, hardbound and published by one of the world's leading publishers, McGraw-Hill.

The books were on social subjects but most were literary works or about literature, with colorful illustrations, she said.

Most were books for the elementary grades, with a handful of college textbooks.

"We always get requests for books. We all know about the lack of books in many of our public schools," Cupan said.

She said that a second batch of 3,000 books was set to be transported to Sulu in the coming days.

The transportation also enjoys the support of the Joint Special Operations Task Force-Philippines (JSOTF-P) of the US Pacific Command, which had sought the 18Fs assistance in transporting the books as well as 1,000 pounds of medicines donated by Brighton Hedge International, a US-based nongovernment organization.

But the Philippine Air Force, this has become its way of reaching the lives of people who have seen years of conflict and strife, suffering and senseless deaths.

# JDV still firmly in control but Pichay issues warning

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE EXPECTED FISHWORKS DID NOT GO off in the House of Representatives yesterday.

Speaker Jose de Venecia remained firmly in the saddle after fellow Lakas-CMD candidate for minority leader Del Gas Step. Prospero Pichay refused to challenge him for the speakership in plenary session.

"This is an issue involving the majority coalition, so it should be settled in an internal caucus," said Pichay, having requested an executive session to declose all seats except in the lower chamber was roundly defeated in a voice vote.

Apparently to buy time, Pichay and many here of the Mindanao bloc in the House, who had earlier pledged their support to him, did not back the motion.

"I have yet to challenge (Joe) the speakership. But if he (De Venecia) can't implement reforms, then I'll be there campaign," said Pichay, as he insisted that the number of executive "dissatisfied" with Mr. Venecia's leadership was growing by the day.

But De Venecia was already declaring victory.

He said he had "won an overwhelming vote of confidence" from the House members.

"This is a reaffirmation of (the) strong confidence in (his) competent and visionary leadership," said staunch ally Representative Raul Roco of Surigao del Norte, reacting to the chamber's vote on the executive session.

Indeed, until the House could now pursue with "renewed vigor its economic and political reform agenda that will unleash the economic potential of the country."

Asked why no majority bloc member who had promised to support him, but opposition Rep. Rodolfo Fariñas of Ilocos Norte and Rep. Antonio Flores of Negros Oriental, had raised and seconded the manner motion, respectively, Pichay said, "I have no idea. Maybe they wanted to leave some fun."

At 4 p.m. in the House opened its session, there was Joe de Venecia standing his hand on Pichay when the latter entered the session hall.

As the two shook hands, the chamber roared in approval.

Pichay said he did not move to challenge the speakership because he had yet to make up his mind.

"You might have thought that there will be fireworks today, but I'm still having consultations with the House members," Pichay said, adding that he supported the process to take about two weeks.

# Nene wants to reopen jueteng hearings: I have new witness

SENATE MINORITY LEADER AQUILINO PI mentel Jr. wants the Senate to resume its investigations into the jueteng controversy saying he'll have a major witness who is all set to testify.

Pimentel declined to identify his witness before announcing it was a he. He refused to say if the witness was former Isabela Gov. Faustino Dy Jr. who was reportedly at the Quezon City home of President Macapagal-Arroyo when jueteng money was allegedly distributed to division officials to support her presidential bid.

Pimentel said the witness had previously declined appear testifying for fear of reprisal but was now willing to come forward. He said his witness contacted him three days ago to say he was ready to execute an affidavit and testify before the Senate committee on public order.

The committee, headed by Sen. Manuel Villar, had conducted nine hearings up to August. Witnesses presented by Archbishop Oscar Cruz of Lingayen, Dagupan, had implicated the President, her husband Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo and their son Dampanga Rep. Juan Miguel Arroyo, both subsequently denied any involvement "rackt" in the United States but have come back.

Pimentel said the First Gentleman can be summoned to the Senate investigations on jueteng and electoral fraud. Another witness claimed that Mike Arroyo had personally delivered P500 million in Mindanao allegedly to bribe officials to ensure his wife's victory in the 2004 elections.

Pimentel and Villar had promised to resume the jueteng hearings as soon as Congress resumes session. *Dalluel Lalicp Aurelliano*

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SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM

# More vocal prelate to lead bishops starting today

LAGDAMEO

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE OF the Philippines (CBCP), heavily criticized by some quarters for the perceived opposition of its stand on the current political crisis, will have a new and more vocal leader beginning today.

Davao Archbishop Fernando Capalla will take over the reins as Archbishop Angel Lagdameo of Jaro, Iloilo, during a meeting of the plenary permanent council of the CBCP membership in Intramuros, Manila.

A CBCP media advisory yesterday said there would be no formal turnover ceremony. While Lagdameo was supposed to begin his new post today, under the CBCP by-laws, Capalla said organizers for now stopping flowers earlier as he would be traveling to Australia and would be cool down afterwards on a conference-in-person in Mindanao.

Capalla, 71, will be leading a seemingly fragmented CBCP under the backdrop of the July 15 pastoral statement to join the clamor for President Macapagal-Arroyo to step down in the wake of election fraud charges against her.

In the interim, much is expected from his successor, who had remained the behind-the-scenes architect of the Arroyo and the dispersal of a prayer rally led by three bishops.

Much of the criticism against the CBCP some of which has come from members of the clergy revolves around Capalla's bold stand, notably blamed on his supposed close ties to the President.

Under Capalla's leadership, one priest complained that the country's CBCP bishops conference will "waiting for someone to speak on matters urgently needing their guidance and perspective."

Capalla supporters believe the observation was an unfair perception of the prelate's conciliatory—but never apologetic—attitude.

"I did my best," the bishop told reporters yesterday. "I thought I served the Church. I served the bishops. I don't know how they will rate me. It's not important to me how they will evaluate me."

Capalla also sought to correct the impression that he was an Arroyo lackey saying that he had also helped the Aquinos, Ramos and Estrada administrations.

"It's only now that they think that I'm for (the) (illegible)," he said.

Critics feel Capalla failed to rise to the occasion, allowing vague guidance to sustain the distressed faithful, especially when the country was beset with political scandals.

"The time has been challenged to address political issues," Capalla said. "But it is not the role of the bishops to respond to purely political issues. They have a moral dimension. And I refer we were challenged to respond."

Capalla actually had another two-year term by CBCP tradition, but months before the CBCP assembly last July he was to follow bishops a letter announcing his irrevocable decision to step down at the end of his first term. He said he wanted to focus on his job as the Archdiocese of Davao.

During the plenary, bishops elected Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales who kept developments after the third round of balloting.

The job then went to Lagdameo who, as the outgoing CBCP vice president, was the automatic choice for Capalla's successor.

While a CBCP president's term is for two years, an incumbent has the option of continuing on to a second term, in which case, with the bishops voting only as a formality.

# DOJ to serve subpoenas on 6 US Marines today

From page A1

go to the embassy," he added.

Gutierrez said Foreign Under secretary Rafael Seguis had assured him that the suspects were still in the country.

The suspects were identified earlier as Keith Silkwood, Daniel Smith, Albert Lam, Corey Harris, Chad Carpenter and Forensic Stephenie.

But in the criminal complaint filed by the victim, only four of the suspects were identified and only by their surnames—Carpenter, Smith, Harris, Lam and Silkwood. The sixth suspect was a John Doe.

"[The John Does' names] should, first of that time. That is why we are opening a co-incident investigation," said Olongapo Vice Assistant City Prosecutor Raymund Fortaleza, who will handle the case.

The identity of the victim has been withheld. She is described as a daughter of an Army soldier and a college graduate from Zamboanga City. She had visited Subic in accompany a companion who was meeting a boyfriend.

In the section of bar hopping at the Spanking Internet Cafe on the night of Nov. 1, she was allegedly taken to a waiting taxi, driven around and dropped off at the waterfront, intoxicated and practically naked.

A WOMAN demonstrator expresses her outrage over the rape of a Filipino woman allegedly by an American serviceman inside the Subic Bay Freeport. AFP/ROMEO

## Incident sparks outrage

The Americans involved were identified by the driver of the taxi amid the grill after she was treated at the Olongapo hospital. They were identified by US officials who had participated in the recent RP-US counterterrorism exercises.

The incident has sparked outrage among senators, congressmen and leftist and militant organizations. On Monday, around 100 members of various women's groups massed near the National Library on U.N. Avenue in Manila after riot police prevented them from proceeding to the US Embassy to protest the rape.

Vitug and Olongapo prosecutor Rudy Jalandoni met with Gonzales and Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño at the DOJ offices.

"Upon the issuance of the subpoenas, the DFA will serve notice to the US Embassy that their respective law will bring those people to us as per their consent," Vitug said.

Gutierrez said the subpoenas would be issued today.

Gutierrez said he had 60 days to finish the preliminary investigation and determine if there was probable cause to file a case against the suspects in local courts.

"We cannot give you the exact number of days because the respondents are allowed 10 days to file counter-affidavits. They can file [for] an extension of time to do that or after the filing of the counter-affidavits," Gutierrez explained. The complainant may wish to reply to that would entail more time," he said.

## Rape a heinous crime

Zuño warned that if the suspects decided not to appear before prosecutors, the preliminary investigation would still continue.

"If they don't want to appear before us, then that's their look out," Vitug said.

He said that there were no efforts to accomodate the rape charge, a heinous crime that could mean the death penalty for the suspects if they were convicted.

"It's rape. At this point, there's no so-called accommodation of the crime to be charged. The charge to rape is we will proceed under the crime of rape in the investigation," Vitug said.

Zuño said that the US Embassy would continue to have custody of the suspects during the preliminary investigation.

That would change only if the DOJ found probable cause and charged the suspects before the courts, which could then issue orders to restrain against them, he said.

If arrest warrants are issued and the suspects refuse to surrender, the Philippine government would file an extradition case against them, he added.

Gonzales said he had also asked prosecutors to verify whether witness Tenorio Siruma, the driver of the van in which the victim was allegedly raped, assisted to join the DOJ's Witness Protection Program.

He said he had not received any official word that Siruma was entering the sworn statement he had given earlier to investigators.

## No whitewash

Both the US Embassy and Malacañang insisted that all parties were strictly adhering to the provisions of the Visiting Forces Agreement to prevent any whitewash.

"Let me say clearly that this is being handled under the Visiting Forces Agreement and under that agreement, we have the cooperation of the authorities in preparing to make the accused available to Philippine investigators and any judicial process that may follow that," said US Chargé d'Affaires Paul Jones.

Jones was accompanied by Consul James Kunder, assistant administrator for Asia and the Near East of the US Agency for International Development, to Malacañang to meet with President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Jones said that the accused US Marines were discussing hiring a Filipino lawyer "to address the investigating authorities and the government side to the VFA [implementation."

He said "the issue should be handled by a judicial procedure."

"Both the Philippines and the US share a strong interest in resolving this case through due process and the rule of law, and full victims with the VFA," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said in a statement.

"We are as indignant as any other Filipino over this incident, [our] emotional sentiments will help neither the victim nor the cause of improved justice. We will continue to cooperate in the investigation and we shall insist on our sovereign prerogatives," Bunye said.

## De Castro's advice

Director General Arturo Lomibao of the Philippine National Police has instructed Chief Supt. Wilfredo Cuñay Head of the PNP Legal Service, to "coordinate closely" with SBMA and PNP investigators and the Olongapo prosecutor to establish an airtight case against those involved in the rape, a PNP statement said.

Vice President Teofisto Guingona said the rape victim is entitled to expect any office of settlement, saying justice must be meted out to those responsible for the crime.

"This will be a test case in the administration of justice in our country. If we cannot have justice on those who will be proven to have wronged one of our own, we will become the laughingstock of the world," said the Lumen.

De Castro, who will leave on assume duty immediately had been assailed by the US Embassy in Manila in a report to the US state department, said that he was considered the government would exhaust every legal means in the case.

De Castro performed the orientation by US President George W. Bush of Ricardo Anne Romero as the first female US ambassador to the Philippines. He said he expected Romero to be sympathetic to the plight of the rape victim, having a woman. With reports from *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Cynthia D. Balana and Luige A. del Puerto in Manila; and Jun Aquino and Alexis Romero, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

# Mikey ends leave from Congress

By Michael Lim Ubac

INCLUDING HE HAS BECOME close to God, President Macapagal-Arroyo's controversial son re-entered to the House of Representatives yesterday, ending a 3-month official leave of absence triggered by allegations linking him to "jueteng," an illegal numbers game.

"I'm happy to be back. I missed all [of] this," said Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo.

He arrived to the congressional building with local officials of the second district of Pampanga, which he represents, in tow.

Wearing a black business suit, Arroyo warmly greeted early birds in the session hall.

"During my break, I became closer to my family, to God and my constituents," he told reporters. But he declined to comment on whether the word was over for his mother, who was struggling to survive a growing political crisis when he left for the United States in June, an ordeal had been described in the media as a self-imposed exile.

"I don't want to answer that... All I know is I'm here to make sure my concerns of the district are addressed in the interests of the national budget," Arroyo said.

Facing television cameras, he said he had returned to resume his duties and participate in the 2002 budget deliberations.

Arroyo said his return was a "mutual decision" between him and his mother.

## Reflect and pray

While staying in the family property in San Francisco, California, Arroyo said he had a lot of time to "reflect and pray." He also attended to occasional matters from Manila.

Arroyo, a married father of two, turns 36 Sept. 9. To celebrate his wife's birthday but not again for the time of Easter shortly after, only to come back on Sept. 26—the same month born the grandfather's birthday.

He served left again.

Arroyo took an official leave on June 14 after the opposition launched a Senate investigation into "jueteng" operations in the country.

One of the witnesses, businessman Romeo Jalosjos Jr., a Zamboanga del Norte congressman Rodolfo Cua, claimed she once personally delivered P500,000 in jueteng money to Arroyo right in the halls of Congress. She alleged that she saw Arroyo receive P400,000 to his pocket. But President's brother-in-law Says Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo.

## Extended leave

The Arroyos have vehemently denied the accusation, calling it a fantastic fable intended to discredit the Arroyo administration.

Bearing in clear his name, Mikey took a leave from the House so as not to interfere in any congressional inquiry.

The family later said that Mikey and his brother, First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, who also left for the United States, decided to leave the country so that the President would not be exposed to more attacks.

In a statement yesterday, Mikey said he had an extended leave because he chose not to participate in the August 6 election despite the controversies that were filed against his brother.

The President's opponents in the House used their numbers to crush the ouster.

# Defensor tells Samar environmentalists to file suit

From page A1

to harvest and allow ATC to operate, but only Defensor heeded his request.

## Selective logging

On Saturday, Enrile told the inquorum that his company would undertake "selective logging operations."

"We're not going to destroy the forest. We will preserve it," Enrile said. "We're not cutting down people and will just cut down trees right and left."

Defensor signed on Aug. 10 the order allowing ATC to harvest timber within the protected area covered by the ECP. ATC's permit to log was issued 16 years despite the nationwide logging ban.

"It was my personal and professional commitment that there should be restitution. We promised reforestation in Samar because of the island as a watershed area," he said.

ATC's logging area falls within the water protection zone of the park, where no activity, even exercise, should be allowed in order to save the forest ecology.

"We are not looking at Enrile ... he is not the only timber licensee in Samar. This is being given political color only because Senator Enrile came to the fore," he said.

Another company in northern Quezon has been allowed to continue harvesting timber because of an appeal from the Japanese Embassy to allow the firm to operate, he said. The company supplies beans and chopsticks to Japanese restaurants.

Defensor said the discussion on logging in Samar was "more and academic" because Enrile had indicated late last year that he was not interested in operating his concessionary again but merely wanted the government to recognize his rights.

"The debate on logging is a figment of the imagination because they will not log anyway," Defensor said of Enrile's firm.

He said Samar, the third largest island in the archipelago, remained one of the poorest in the country because it refused to open itself up to logging and mining activities that could spur economic growth.

## Why Samar is poor

"They continue to be poor because they don't recognize that conservation mining and logging can be done," Defensor said.

Church and environment groups in Samar, along with the provincial government and regional development council, have united to block the resumption of logging on the island.

Researches have contended that logging in the past decades had resulted only in the degradation of the forests and massive flooding. The Ashanoon fire that flood of 1,000 killed scores of people on the island.

Environmentalists and bishops claimed that the resumption of logging by Enrile's firm would hit a critical watershed inside the 3,060-acre Ashanoon the water supply to three provinces.

Defensor, however, said that even without ATC operating, the roads have been punishing timber inside the nature park and were carrying trees despite the log ban.

"On the road, it will be the people who will decide whether ATC can operate because the fine will needs local permits. As far as we're concerned, we've given ATC's extension," he said.

# PDI, Quiz Bee Foundation search for best schools

From page A9

For its 20th anniversary, the Philippine Daily Inquirer has partnered with the Quiz Bee Foundation to give 20 science journalism workshops and 20 Quiz Bee clinics to students in the top school in each of the 16 regions of the country and the four best schools in the National Capital Region.

"We've worked with the newspaper for the right years, but the Inquirer wanted to do something special for its 20th anniversary," said Petronio Tayag, official spokesperson and vice president of the Quiz Bee Foundation.

Tayag said the foundation would identify 20 public high schools that deserve to be treated to a unique journalism workshops to be conducted by Inquirer editors and reporters.

Graphic, the official mascot of the Inquirer, which had been translated into 20 tondoo sculptures by Jun Sajid Imao and painted by 20 of the country's veteran and emerging artists, will also be given to the schools.

Graphic was awarded by Inquirer because that's awesome Jun Mercado.

## Elimination phase

"The 20th National Inquirer Quiz Bee would have a series of school, district, division and regional eliminations before the grand finals in December," Tayag explained.

Every year, some 40,000 private and public schools enter the competition and four winners emerge in the following categories: Elementary Mathematics or Philippine History, Culture and Values champion; an Elementary Mathematics champion, a high school Science and Technology champion; and a Collegiate General Information and International Affairs champion.

But only the public high schools that excel in the science and technology category will qualify for the campus-to-campus and will receive the Garden awards. The art work will be placed in the town museum or municipal hall where the schools are located, or on the schools' grounds themselves.

## Inquirer award

Tayag said the most difficult round in the high school science and technology category would be called the Inquirer Round.

"Some of the questions in this round would be taken from past and present Inquirer articles on science and technology," she said.

The Inquirer recently revved up its science and technology page focusing on topics which would interest high school readers, she said.

## Stakeholders

Tinitet Inquirer has been organized for the president and el cetera directors, while college students find the newspaper's website convenient and convenient, Tayag said.

High school students, she stressed, were the newspaper's major stakeholders.

"We want to change the habits of high school students who tend to ignore newspapers and devote their time to reading only pocket books," Tayag said, adding that updating students on current events and providing them a background on politics and economic issues would better prepare them for college.

The Inquirer has articles on all these topics," she said.

The Quiz Bee, which began in 1971, is the longest running and most prestigious academic competition in the country with a mission to strengthen education through academic excellence and values formation.

Regional eliminations started last month, while the grand finals will be held in Tagaytay City on Dec. 16.

## Correction

IN YESTERDAY'S issue, the wrong photo of Alex Amyad Jamito Radiolen Sahiron accompanied the front-page banner story—"One armed suspect not Abu leader." The wrong file photo used on the front page (right) was that of an unidentified Abu Sayyaf bandit. On the left is the current file photo of Radiolen Sahiron, alias Commander Pastel.

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors occurring in the Star Daily, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PSI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yakal Street, Makati City, fax them at 897-07-03/845-4144, e-mail inq@inq7.net or inq@philonline.com.ph, or fax Nos. 897-43-93/94. Attn: Reader Advocate. For phone number is 897-8808 local 3442.

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DROP THAT GUN, FATHER!

# Church wants to strip chaplains of ranks, perks

By Christine V. Bagayaua

"DROP THAT GUN, FATHER!"

It's not exactly tough being a chaplain in the police or military service – you get a competitive monthly salary, a secure billet/a handsome uniform and rank promotions.

But if a new proposal by some chaplains themselves were to be approved by Rome, all these perks would be lost to Catholic priests serving in the Philippine National Police and the armed forces of the Philippines.

Davao Archbishop Fernando Capalla, outgoing president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), said he was awaiting an official letter from Bishop Leopoldo Tumulak of the Military Vicariate to formalize the proposal.

"It seems that joining the chaplaincy is just for convenience [for some priests]," Capalla said yesterday, reflecting "the sentiments of not a few chaplains in the PNP and AFP." It seems that the value of missionary work is absent in some priests."

Capalla and Tumulak had suggested that priestly work in the police and military be limited to the spiritual guidance of the men in uniform and, as such, chaplains should not be given service ranks.

The matter will be tackled during the joint assembly of the outgoing and incoming CBCP permanent councils tomorrow at the Archbishop's headquarters in Intramuros, Manila.

When Archbishop Antonio Aguilelos was the military vicar, Capalla said, he resisted moves for the priesthood from within the AFP and PNP.

Chaplains receive salaries and other perks that go with being a line endorser. Capalla acknowledged that all those had greased the conspiring for many priests who applied to be chaplains.

There are at least 40 chaplains in the PNP at present.

In the police force, chaplains are even taught combat skills and are covered by the armed forces weapons proficiency tests. Their service firearm is the 9-mm pistol, the same gun issued to regular policemen.

In a previous interview with the Inquirer, Fr. Rey Umenzuza, head of the PNP Chaplain Service, said he received a most lukewarm response [according to him] as a superintendent [or colonel in the military].

Since he was a senior officer covered by the PNP law, he said he was under the PNP direct control, even as he was also under the jurisdiction of the military vicar.

Capalla said the proposal by Tumulak and other chaplains would be endorsed by the CBCP submitted to the Apostolic Nuncio in the Philippines archbishop Antonio Franco, before being delivered to the Vatican for approval.

# 60 policemen attend US-sponsored seminar on int'l human trafficking

By Luige A. del Puerto

SOME 60 POLICE OFFICERS, MAJORITY OF them women, yesterday began a two-day training seminar on the laws and nature of human trafficking.

The seminar, held at the police national headquarters in Camp Crame, is sponsored by USAID and the United States Embassy in Manila.

It is designed to familiarize the police officers assisting the Women and Children Concerns Desks (WCCD) with the provisions of Republic Act 9208, or the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003.

The training focuses on the "elements and evidentiary requisites to establish cases against offenders," a police statement said.

Philippine National Police chief Director General Arturo Lomibao noted that because of the clandestine nature of the crime, human traffickers linked to global syndicates are difficult to prosecute.

The police has acknowledged the gravity of the problem and has joined hands with government and private stakeholders to combat trafficking crime, according to Lomibao.

The PNP along with the departments of Justice, Foreign Affairs and Social Welfare, is a member of an inter-agency council mandated to implement the anti-trafficking law.

The United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, signed upon its 2000, calls on nations to provide assistance for the physical, psychological and social recovery of trafficking victims.


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# Victim of wrongful . . .

From page A1

was Commander Ford. I said I had nothing to do with them. I don't know that person," he said.

He insisted he had never been to Basilan or Jolo Island, where Sabaycos believed to be hiding.

Ebreo said he was blindfolded with adhesive tape and his hands were bound at one point, he thought he would be executed.

### Children were crying

After he was brought to Hospicio, the kidnappers took turns to feed him and not maltreat him.

But back at home, Garcia said he were how traumatized his wife and children had become.

"That's my problem. My wife nearly had a nervous breakdown then. They were held at gunpoint. My four children were crying on hold when I was abused that they would hardly breathe," he said.

He said he heard an intercession that Mr. Ebreo was involved in the kidnap but he added: "My friend, he would not settle for just sorry." He said that if it were up to him, he would not file charges anymore because that would mean more expenses.

"But my eldest child would not agree to let it pass. He are good people. A lot of people know us, even the governor who they interview (sic) me. I strongly admonish who is the known brother," Garcia said.

### Excuse for GMA

"My wife, my family, my brothers and sisters, my cousins and some my neighbors would not let it pass. They would not agree. They agree as the police would not do the same thing to another person."

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said Wednesday expected PNP Directorate General Avelino Razon to take appropriate action against those concerned.

"We can be very sure that as his level, General Razon's benefit will caution an investigation and give a more serious to who were the ill-doing subordinates," Bunye said in a transcript of a radio interview.

"I think they [the police] will be more circumspect in forwarding any names on full evidence," he said.

Bunye said he was sure he the President's brave blunder.

"It's a natural reaction for to remind by good sense). But probably the authorities will be more careful next time," he said.

The Philippine stock is perhaps and even the sophisticated house of other countries also make mistakes in their republics and other operations."

### Senga taken in, too

Bunye said in on things is a better light.

"It's just a matter of time. We might not be able to catch him but we are not necessarily get Commander Ford."

Even Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga was apparently also taken in by the false PNP report. On Saturday he told some reporters that Sabaycos had been captured by "PNP operation counterparts in Jolo."

Yesterday, Senga said that as far as the AFP knew, Sabaycos was still in hiding in Sulu.

### 'Let's move on'

The PNP said it wanted to put the incident behind it.

"We want to move on as much as we can. We have said our piece about the matter, and we don't want for them to have a low morale," said PNP spokesperson Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil.

Lambino reckoned the PNP had learned its lesson.

"I told her [Mrs Ebreo] the circumstances behind the incident and she accepted [our] apology," Lambino said.

Asked if officers would be sacked, Lambino said: "I don't think so because this was done in good faith."

Senior Supt. Rodolfo "Boogie" Mendoza, officer in charge of the project to capture Sabaycos, shall remain with a special operations unit under the PNP chief, according to Lambino.

### Lambino's promotion

He added: "This should be the last time that this will happen. And we will remind our operatives to do the same before they report things like that, because this is a special type of operation and it has got to be 100 percent sure."

What happened, according to Lambino, was that field operatives relied too much on an informant (but they had used in the past.

While the operatives had no reason to doubt the source, Lambino said they should not have been "too sure confident and too trusting."

### Heads may roll

Bulletin from all sides of the political fence demanded an investigation and the PNP.

Senator Panfilo Lacson and Akbayan Rep. Risa Hontiveros called for the resignation of Mr. Razon and his respective officials.

"Resignation is the answer," Pimentel told reporters.

Asked how Mrs. Arroyo could avoid future gaffes, Pimentel said: "They should remove from the Commander-in-Chief ... This nation is greatly at risk from the continuing bumbling presidency of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo."

Sen. Ramon Revilla Jr. said: "This doesn't sound comforting to us, especially when we pose in so much budget for the intelligence operations of our forces."

Former Mayor Jejomar Binay, also from their leader, who is now a member of the House of Representatives, called for the sacking of certain PNP officials.

Rivalde Acosta, with Jo Ace Duhaylungsod in Davao, Jerome Aning, Maria Montes, Ina Arcilla, Jhoanna Ballaran, Jeannette Andrade, Jaime Laude, Jose Rodel Clapano

AVIAN FLU ADVISORY

# Education, Health execs tell students: Don't touch that bird

By Rissin Pupa

"IT MAY BE CUTE, BUT DON'T touch that bird."

The Department of Education has told school officials not to let their students play with or in any way come into contact with any birds, whether dead or alive, as a precaution against the avian flu.

DepEd Director for Health and Nutrition Dr. Thelma Santos said the warning had come from the Department of Health.

"Whatever our advisories are, they are based on advisories issued by the DOH. So we advise students not to play with their pet birds or any bird for that matter," Santos said.

Santos also advised teachers to be extra careful when their students went out on field trips, especially in areas where birds, especially migratory ones, might be present.

But she insisted that the ban not advocating a ban on field trips.

"It has would not be good. We know that field trips have educational value and engaging kids inside (meaning subjects for them) [teachers and students] have to keep distance from the birds. They must be careful," Santos said.

She said that all past advisories issued to schools on the SARS virus, dengue and meningococcemia were now in effect, as well.

Santos reiterated her advice to teachers to constantly monitor the physical condition of their students.

"We have advised teachers to be vigilant on the status of the health of their students," Santos said.

During the ongoing Educators Congress in Davao City, Santos said the DepEd was working with the DOH on an official advisory on the bird flu virus to be issued soonlands.

A national task force on the bird flu headed by the DOH and the DepEd has been created to meet the crisis the threat.

Santos said the advisory would aim to create awareness of the disease among teachers and students. An awareness program would be patterned after the awareness programs of the DOH and the DepEd on SARS, dengue and meningococcemia.

EDUCATORS' CONGRESS

# DepEd to retrain teachers in English, science, math

By Rissin Pupa

DAVAO CITY – THE DEPARTMENT OF Education plans to provide public elementary and high school teachers to improve their proficiency in the key subjects of English, science and math, which has degenerated over the years and has been identified as a major factor for the low academic performance of Filipino public school students.

Investing in teacher welfare and development and elevating teacher training programs were among the major reforms which DepEd Officer-in-Charge Dr. Fe Hidalgo said at the 2005 Educators Congress the department will pursue in 2006.

Other major thrusts identified by Hidalgo include the computerization of schools to expose students to the countryside to the innovation, de-clogging classrooms by transferring observing public school students to private schools, acquisition of additional textbooks and the construction of more classrooms.

Some 2,000 education officials, school administrators, and teachers from both public and private elementary and secondary schools are attending three-day conference and workshops.

According to Hidalgo, the DepEd is preparing to spend P1.06 billion in the coming school year to fund the transfer of observing students to private schools nationwide under the Government Assistance to Students and Teachers in Private Education (GASTPE) program.

It also plans to spend P1.8 billion to new textbooks for English and Makabayan subjects, Hidalgo said, adding that P1.66 billion was being allocated for its school feeding program to ensure pupils in economically depressed areas attend classes. Hunger and malnutrition have been identified as a major cause of absenteeism and dropping out.

Other allocations include P681 million for teacher training, specifically for English proficiency and science; and P288 million for the computerization of schools.

Hidalgo told reporters last week that more than half of the country's 450,282 public school teachers have had little or no training in science, math and English, thus lack of mastery was rate most acute in math and science.

"Only 20% of math and science teachers actually trained in their respective areas of instruction," she said. "The teachers' lack of training in the basic subjects of key subjects like science, math and English has affected the learning skills of the students."

In the National Achievement Test for school year 2004-2005, public elementary pupils obtained low averages of 50 percent in math and English, and 54 percent in science. The passing average is 75 percent. The mean percentage scores of public high school students were also

Attention
Ateneo de Zamboanga Jubilarians

THE ATENEO DE Zamboanga University will honor its golden jubilarians this year - High School Class 1955 - during its homecoming celebration on Dec. 2 to 4, 2005 in Zamboanga City.

For more information, the jubilarians are requested to contact lawyer Dominique "Coco" Bernas in Manila at tel. 725-78-36, or telephone 09175-05-60; and Chin Shiau Coll. (phone 0921-512-56-17), and Vivian Imbong-Jo (phone 0917-720-17-22) in Zamboanga City.

# The WORLD

Lilia Lorenzo B. Gozo

## France's worst night: Youths fire on cops, 1,408 cars torched

PARIS—YOUTHS FIRED AT POLICE AND HURLED flaming Molotov cocktails at churches, schools, cars and a daycare center in an 11th night of violence in France, sending a "shock wave across the country," the national police chief said Monday.

Gendarmes burned 1,420 vehicles across France, setting a new high for overnight arson attacks since the arson started Oct. 27, Michel Gaudin told a news conference. The figure was an increase from the 1,295 vehicles torched the night before.

"We are witnessing a sort of shock wave that is spreading across the country," Gaudin said, noting that the violence appeared to be shifting away from Paris and municipalities where Socialists dominate.

Police arrested 395 people across the country, he said.

Six riot police were injured by youths firing flare guns Sunday at a late-night club in the southern Paris suburb of Grigny, national police spokesperson Patrick Hamon said. Two were hospitalized but their lives were not in danger.

It was the first time police were injured by weapons fire since the unrest started nearly two weeks ago.

The violence came in open defiance to a warning by French President Jacques Chirac who pledged to clamp down on the troublemakers.

"The law must have the last word," Chirac said Sunday after a security meeting with top ministers, making his first public address on the riots. France is determined. We'll be stronger than those who want to use violence or fear, and they will be severely judged and punished."

Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin promised speeded up trials for arsonists and extra security during France's worst civil unrest in recent decades.

Assemblies between the latest country to issue a travel warning, telling the United States and Russia to warning citizens to stay away from violence for arson.

The unrest began Oct. 27 in the low-income Paris suburb of Clichy-sous-Bois, after the deaths of two teenagers of Mauritanian and Tunisian origin. The youths were accidentally electrocuted as they hid from police in a power substation. They apparently thought they were being chased.

Fueled by a backlash of anger in suburban Paris housing projects, the violence has fanned out into a nationwide show of disdain for French authority from youths, including the children of Arabs and black Africans angered by high unemployment, poor housing and discrimination.

The country's biggest Muslim fundamentalist organization, the Union for Islamic Organizations of France, issued a fatwa, or religious decree, to forbade all those "who seek divine grace from taking part in any action that falsely strikes yet

A FIREMAN passes by fire-damaged vehicles as riots broke out in a sensitive neighborhood Nov. 4 in the France south western city of Toulouse. French President Jacques Chirac said that maintaining law and order in suburbs where rioting has raged for more than a week is a "priority" for his government. —

ones or public property or can harm others."

Arsonists burned two schools and a bus in the second city of Saint-Etienne and its suburbs, and two people were injured in the bus attack. Churches were set ablaze in southern Lyon and southern Lens, he said. The extent of damage was not yet clear. AP

## Bomb attack on Somali PM convoy kills 6

MOGADISHU—A BOMB EXPLOsion tore through a convoy of cars carrying Somalia's prime minister in Mogadishu on Sunday, killing six, medical sources said, in an attack described by diplomats as an attempt to wreck a fragile peace process.

Prime Minister Mohamed Ali Gedi was not injured but the blast sharply raised tensions in a city controlled largely by his political foes. Government sides said a land mine caused the explosion.

Unidentified assailants threw a hand grenade under Gedi's car as it passed his house near the land mine that is an apparently coordinated attack, a government source said.

The blast set ablaze at least one vehicle among several that were carrying Gedi and one of his deputies from an attempt to the Somali Indian Ocean city.

"We heard an explosion at that time was an exchange of fire. I don't know who [terrorists]," a wounded man who had been riding in the convoy told Reuters from his hospital bed.

"The lives of our car were shredded by bullets."

Gedi had flown in from his headquarters north of the capital to try to hold talks with a dissident faction of militiamen based in Mogadishu to end a rift in the country's interim government. And there's renewed civil war in the chaos in from of Africa nations.

"This was an apparent attempt at disrupting the effort at reconciliating the outcome of the reconciliation conference," Mohammed Ali Nasir, the African Union envoy to Somalia, said of the peace talks where Gedi's government was formed.

Six people were killed in the blast, medical sources said, and a government source said four of the six had been burnt beyond recognition. Most of the dead were believed to be Gedi's bodyguards, about 20 people were wounded. Reuters

## Bush challenges clout of Chavez, Castro in LatAm

BRASILIA—US PRESIDENT George W. Bush on Sunday ramped up his efforts to curb Venezuela and Cuba's clout in Latin America, accusing them of trying to "roll back" hard-won democracy and free market gains in the region.

Amid concerns in Washington that poverty may enhance the appeal of anti-US, economically populist messages, Bush said in a speech that "standing social justice for the American peoples choosing between two competing visions."

"One offers a vision of hope. It is founded on representative government, integration into the world community and a faith in the transformative power of freedom," he told students, diplomats and business leaders.

"The other seeks to roll back the democratic progress of the past two decades by playing to fear, pitting neighbor against neighbor and blaming others for their own failures to provide for their people," he said.

He never named Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez or Cuban leader Fidel Castro, White House aides tacitly acknowledged that they were the targets of what was the keynote speech of a five-day three-country trip to the region.

Bush, making his first overt visit to Brazil, also endorsed US trade with the region's richest economy despite opposition here to his moves for a mammoth hemispheric free trade zone stretching from Canada to Chile.

After talks with Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, Bush hosted in his host's view that successful World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations have to precede new talks on creating the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA).

Bush left Brasilia shortly thereafter and was on the way to Bolivian, the last leg of his Latin American tour. AFP

## Chinese president calls renewable energy 'a must'

BEIJING—CHINESE PRESIDENT Jiang Zemin and US and European officials called Monday for a sharp rise in the world's use of solar and other nonpolluting power sources as they opened an international meeting on renewable energy.

Some 1,200 delegates from 80 countries joined Chinese leader at the Great Hall of the People, the seat of China's legislature in central Beijing, to discuss using solar power, wind energy and hydropower to unveil coal and oil.

"Strengthening the development and use of renewable energies is a must for us to address the increasingly serious energy and environmental issues," Hu said in a statement that was read to the conference by Vice Premier Zeng Peiyan.

Participants in the conference included European Cabinet ministers and US Energy Department officials.

China, the world's second biggest producer of greenhouse gases after the United States, has promoted cleaner and renewable energy in hopes of reducing its pollution from its surging fossil-fuel use and the potential security risks of growing dependence on imported oil.

The government says China relies on renewable energy for 7 percent of its needs but wants to raise that to 23 percent by 2020. AP

## Experts meet to draw up battle plan to halt bird flu

GENEVA—HEALTH EXPERTS meet on Monday to draw up a global strategy to halt the spread of deadly bird flu and prevent it from developing into a human pandemic in which millions could die.

The deadly H5N1 virus is known to have killed 63 people in four Asian countries since the culling of 100 million birds worldwide. It has recently been detected in birds in eastern Europe and experts expect it to reach the Middle East and Africa in the near future.

The virus remains hard for people to catch but has mutated in recent months and could acquire changes that make it easy to spread from human to human, potentially triggering a pandemic in which millions would die and the global economy could be crippled.

The senior UN coordinator for avian and human influenza, David Nabarro, said farmers in regions bordering Asia must be especially careful and veterinarians difficult to draw up a sweeping plan against the disease during three days of talks hosted by the World Health Organization.

A global programs would mean investing in veterinary services, border controls and movement laws, scientific cooperation on vaccine development as well as negotiations with drug companies on access to existing antivirals, he said.

Nabarro also said that as part of the plans, the World Bank would propose setting up a fund to help both countries and agencies respond to the crisis.

"I think there is a reasonably good chance ... that people will respond as needed to set of basic principles and elements for what will become an international program which can then be presented to the donor community over the next couple of months," Nabarro told Reuters in an interview.

"The actual pledging, I understand, will take place in the new year ... That is definitely in the plans," he added.

Jim Adams, the World Bank's chief for operations policy and country services who will make a financial presentation to the talks on Wednesday, has said a trust fund would require initial donations of $100 million to $500 million to help countries set up programs.

Experts say the virus must be stopped in poultry to prevent mass mutations in people and describe it that fight more would done in densely populated Asia, where farmers and even city dwellers live side by side with poultry and other livestock.

There are also fears that the virus could spread rapidly if it takes hold in Africa's rural hinterlands where similar living conditions exist. Reuters

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## Fujimori surprises Japan to the end

By Haruki Ozawa

TOKYO—PERUS FUGITIVE FORmer President Alberto Fujimori kept Japan guessing to the end, leaving the country of his ancestors as suddenly as he arrived almost exactly five years ago.

Fujimori, determined to run in the presidential election in Peru in April 2000, despite a looming arrest warrant, left behind his wife known his family and flew unannounced in a private jet to Chile.

Fujimori, 67, is a dominant figure in Peru but a cause célèbre among conservatives in Japan, which had adamantly refused to extradite him.

He may wish he had stayed in Japan. Within hours of arriving in Santiago, he was taken away by police from the Marriott Hotel.

The former leader was detained on an arrest warrant issued by a judge who had been told by Chile's Supreme Court to consider Lima's request for Fujimoris extradition lodged hours earlier.

Japan's conservative Chief Cabinet Secretary Shinzo Abe said Monday that the government which had welcomed Fujimori in 2000 only knew of his departure through media reports.

"The government is currently unaware of his whereabouts," Abe said.

Fleeing he left Japan, although we are not in the position to make comments about it," Abe said.

Jiji Press news agency said the Japanese Embassy in Lima was taken by surprise and had not requested Fujimori to leave or stay. Its rules prosecution in Peru over state-sponsored killings and corruption.

"The latest something was evading," a diplomat in Tokyo said on condition of anonymity. "The situation was getting to be too much. I don't think the Japanese government really liked having a fox pouns like this."

The controversial business-friendly strongman has always strong support in Japan.

FUJIMORI —AP

Being a corruption scandal at home, he used the opportunity at an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting in Brunei in November 2000 to flyto Tokyo and claim Japanese nationality, on account of his parents who emigrated to Peru in the 1930s.

As the crisis deepened, Fujimori resigned after 10 years in power simply by sending a fax from his Tokyo hotel to the government in Lima.

He has been in limbo ever since. He resided in a high-end Tokyo hotel owned by his Japanese girlfriend and hobnobbed with nationalist politicians.

In September he showed up at Japans consult embassy in Tokyo to push up a new passport, seeking to free with the others and promoting his birth nationality.

Fujimori is wanted in Peru both on charges he was behind the killing of 25 suspected Maoist rebels and in connection with a vast corruption scandal.

Japan refused to extradite him, saying he was one of its nationals, for instead Tokyo's gratitude in 1997 when he negotiated and then sent in commandos to end a siege of the Japanese Embassy in Lima by leftist rebels.

Yasuhiro Okuda, professor of law school at Chuo University, said Fujimori could only have been extradited had he violated international law such as genocide. AFP

# India, Pakistan open border to ease quake aid

PAKISTANI Brig. Tahir Raza Mogal (left) shakes hands with his Indian counterpart A. K. Bakshi during the Tithwals border opening ceremony. AFP

ON THE LINE OF CONTROL—PAKISTAN and India opened their frontier to divided Kashmir for earthquake relief on Monday, raising hopes of a lasting settlement of their contentious decades-old dispute over the territory.

Army commanders and government officials from the two sides met at the Line of Control (LoC), the de facto border that has divided the Himalayan region since the late 1940s, and shook hands before declaring the crossing point open.

Indian and Pakistani porters then began unloading the trucks and handed the supplies to each other on the Pakistani side, the first time ever that a shipment of relief had crossed the heavily militarized border.

"This is a huge day in the history of both Kashmir and the subcontinent," Sardar Mohammad Yaseen, the deputy commissioner of Pakistani Kashmir who represented the Pakistani side, said.

"It has given us all a new ray of hope."

Indian officials said they were sending 25 truckloads of relief to the Pakistani side—meant for by the Oct. 8 quake, which killed more than 54,000 people—including tents, carpentries, food and medicine.

While tape has been laid along the LoC at the crossing—Titwhals on the Pakistani side and Chakothalubagh in the Indian zone—and both sides had laid out rock carpets.

A sign on the Indian side read, "We have not opened the LoC, we have opened hearts."

Kashmiris themselves were not allowed to cross the frontier as originally hoped when Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf first proposed the border opening last month, since lists of their names have not yet been exchanged.

But S.S. Sharma, divisional commissioner for the Jammu district of Indian Kashmir, said after shaking hands with Pakistan's Yaseen, at the ceremony that civilians may be able to cross by Nov. 14.

"It's definitely a very historic and very important moment," he told reporters.

Several hundred villagers on the Pakistani side lined up about 200 yards away from the crossing point and cheered loudly when they saw the first relief goods being exchanged.

At least two more crossing points along the frontier are due to open soon, in the next week.

Indian and Pakistani troops have had to clear minefields around the site, a legacy from the decades of hostilities in Kashmir.

They have set up symbolic gateposts on either side as well as four large tents at six entry points, while the Indian army has established a surgery ward and emergency hospital nearby.

Officials on both sides including Musharraf have said it could have peace dividends beyond the immediate benefits to quake victims.

Brigadier Tahir Ataqir, the officer in charge of the Pakistani side, suggested that the border posts could become a long-term feature, alleviating families divided by the LoC for nearly six decades to cross more or reach others.

"After a year maybe you will find a big terminal coming up here. It's quite possible," Ataqir told AFP. "We are doing things with an element of permanence in them."

Increasing contact between people in both countries is one of the key confidence-building measures agreed by India and Pakistan when they launched their slow-moving peace process in January 2004.

In April, the two sides allowed the first official opening of the LoC by starting a fortnightly bus service to reunite families in the Indian and Pakistani zones.

Muslim-majority Kashmir has been split between the two countries since independence from Britain in 1947, causing two of their three wars since then and remaining the core dispute between the nuclear-armed neighbors. AFP

# US Marine, 17 insurgents dead in Iraq assault

BAGHDAD—US AND IRAQI FORCES KILLED at least 17 insurgents as they swept through a town on the Syrian border and one US Marine was killed, the military and reporters in the town said on Monday.

On the third day of Operation Steel Curtain in Qaryatin in western Iraq, the US military said troops were moving through the town, whose 30,000 residents appear mostly to have fled, clearing out insurgents in house-to-house searches.

The military said in a statement one Marine was shot dead on Sunday in the biggest operation in the mainly Sunni Arab desert province of Anbar since the battle for Falluja a year ago.

Minority Sunni insurgents, allied with al-Qaida fighters, are fighting the US occupation and Shiite-led government.

A New York Times reporter traveling with the Marines said that a patrol had been searching a house that appeared to be empty when they were met with a hail of gunfire, which killed one Marine and drove the others outside.

The insurgent gunman was killed by other Marines as he tried to flee from the roof, the reporter said.

A CNN reporter with the Marines said that troops had found large caches of weapons in a number of houses in the town, some of which were rigged up with booby traps, referred to by the military as improvised explosive devices, or IEDs.

"Resistance remains sporadic," said Marine spokesperson Lt.Col. David Lapan. "We continue to be engaged by the enemy mostly with small arms fire and IEDs, and we are air and ground fires to kill or capture them."

CNN quoted troops in the town as saying that between 60 and 80 insurgents had been killed in the operation but a military statement late on Sunday put the insurgent death toll at 17. Reuters

# Powerful tornado batters Indiana, kills 23, hurts 200

NEAR BIG, INDIANA—A POWERFUL TORnado tore through southern Indiana and parts of Kentucky early on Sunday, killing at least 23 people and injuring more than 200, many caught sleeping when the twister hit, officials said.

At least five people were confirmed dead in Henrich County and at least 18 were killed in Vanderburgh County, according to county officials.

Three area hospitals reported treating more than 200 people. At St. Mary's Medical Center in Evansville, the closest hospital to the destruction, at least 30 were admitted with serious injuries, and 12 people were in critical condition.

Deaconess Hospital in Evansville had at least 15 people in critical condition, officials there said.

"We've had severe damage," said Newburgh Assistant Fire Chief Chad Bennett. "Homes were totally devastated. There are a lot of people thankful to be alive today."

Officials said the death toll would likely climb as rescue workers picked through rubble in house-to-house searches and resumed their hunt. About 130 Indiana National Guard troops were called in to assist in recovery efforts and to help provide security and clean up debris.

At least two people were found dead in a soybean field in Henrich County, according to the Newburgh fire department.

The Eastbrooke mobile home park in Evansville was one of the places hardest hit where the storm struck well before dawn.

Many homes there were reduced to twisted piles of metal that lay mixed with the remains of downed trees, crumbled cars, and other debris.

In one trailer home, rescue workers found a young mother alive, but her husband and daughter dead until her two-year-old stepdaughter, said Tom Williams, chief deputy of the sheriff's department in Vanderburgh County. Reuters

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# OPINION

## Prejudice

LAST WEEK, THE SOCIAL WEATHER STATIONS published its latest survey showing that about two-thirds of Filipinos, despite their lack of knowledge of Islam, have a favorable opinion of Muslims and their religion. The survey, conducted from Aug. 28 to Sept. 5, showed that 63 percent of the respondents had a favorable view of Islam, compared to 52 percent in August 2004.

**EDITORIAL** The results of the SWS survey different from the findings of a Pulse Asia survey commissioned by the United Nations in March. The Pulse Asia poll, for instance, showed that 55 percent of Filipinos think "Muslims are prone to run amok." Exactly 47 percent "think Muslims are terrorists or extremists" while 44 percent believe that Muslims "harbor hatred toward non-Muslims."

The results of the SWS survey are encouraging, but it cannot be said that bigotry and discrimination against Muslim Filipinos have completely disappeared. The stereotyping of Muslim Filipinos reached its height after the phone attacks on the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York on Sept. 11, 2001. Anyone who looked like an Arab or a Muslim was regarded with suspicion and was thought to be an extremist who could, at any moment, launch one to kingdom come. This thinking persists, even in supposedly enlightened areas like Mindanao and other urban centers.

Some recent examples of the stereotyping of Muslims:

• In May 2004, former Maguindanao Rep. Michael Mastura, a Muslim scholar and MILF peace panel member, was detained and later deported by the US government. He had been invited to speak at a conference organized by the United Nations in New York. The US State Department later apologized to the MILF.

• In January 2003, a news report said in part: "Not even police chiefs about a suspected Islamic bomb plot could hold back the massive human tide" for the prosecution of the Black Nazarene in Quiapo[1]. A reader wrote that the use of the word "Islamic" to refer to the bomb was insulting to the Islamic community. She said that the Islamic community condemns terrorism in any form.

• In September-October 2004, tenants and homeowners protested against the construction of a "mosque" in a building in the Greenhills Shopping Center. It turned out that the supposed "mosque" was just a small prayer room intended for Muslim storeowners placing their trade at Greenhills. Muslims have to perform their prayer obligations (salat) five times a day.

Whenever a major crime is committed in or near a Muslim community such as the one in Quiapo, the Muslims are subject to the present-day version of the "amok" during the Japanese occupation. It is as if Muslims are automatically to be held responsible for anything bad happening in the community.

In the Philippines, the anti-Muslim prejudice and bias begin building up after the conquest and Christianization of the country by the Spaniards. The bias survives even in our language and culture. One writer once asked why we have euro-centric dramas but no "Christian-Christian" plays. After the Philippines was ceded by Spain to the United States, the Americans continued the stereotyping of Muslims. The belief spread that Muslims could not be trusted and they were apt to run amok (*lessons parameviewed*). In many places Muslims are eyed with fear, hatred and suspicion. A Muslim congressman once said that Muslims (who, to the first place, were the original settlers of Mindanao) have become "foreigners in their own land."

The attack on the World Trade Center heightened the prejudice against Muslims all over the world, including Filipino Muslims. Now people do not make a distinction between peaceful, law-abiding Muslims and Muslim fundamentalists or extremists who use religion as an instrument of terrorism and violence.

There is no reason why peace-loving Muslims and Christians cannot coexist in harmony throughout the country. But first, bigotry and discrimination have to go. The old prejudices and biases have to be torn off. Christians and Muslims have to be treated as equals before the law and before God, as befits all citizens of no enlightened, liberal democracy.

The earlier Pulse Asia survey indicated that the anti-Muslim bias persisting in the country appears to be fueling the 35-year-old armed conflict in Mindanao. The conflict has taken a terrible toll in human lives, in number of people displaced, in public works and private property destroyed and in foregone investments. If the age-old biases and prejudices could be cast off, we may yet be able to attain peace in Mindanao in our time.

## A road too far

**VIEWPOINT**

*Juan L. Mercado*

WHY DID CEBU CITY MAYOR township hand, this time, into a mud hole?

Over the last 150 days, His Honor blocked a six-lane, 12-kilometer national government highway with dilapidated city hall buses, invoking "security." And the courts haltet him from jollies to post his favorite.

Once a million commuters were stopped in their tracks by the mayor's arms-akimbo barrier at the JY-Luchi Square, Cebu's Central Road. Instead into a traffic gridlocked, two lane street now passengers heading for Cebu's piers or airport, students, processing some employees and businessmen ascending to jam-packed offices for Negros, Bohol and other provinces.

"It's a road his city does not own," Hotspoint protested out loudly. But the crowd any control and public works department didn't even submitted in the hitch. Fuel bills for the extra hour's travel would be staggering. That column warned. But passes "will be given to whoever the mayor's frontline will bless."

**And as it came to pass.**

Until a year after taxpayer Fred Spadoy said, Regional Trial Court Judge Isidro Perez ordered, "Would need to begin city work from national government." City lawyers didn't contest that point during the dragged out hearings.

Dumanda barriers in the sifted highway Perez ordered Osmeña. From 5 a.m. to 7 p.m., all motorists (not just those flogging mayor's pants) may drive through the "mid" that city owns. Cebu's muddled 203-hectare South Reclamation Project, the country's 16-page relating added.

Now, Cardinal Ricardo Vidal can use that highway," but that's being Waterloo street, dozens left of his parishes are on the marsh. But the Cebu archbishop declined to ride for space. Instead, the prelate quoted with everything citizens denied use of a road three years built. "I'll use that road only when it's open to everybody," the cardinal explained.

"We'll be reasonably fast in implementing (The ruling)," Osmeña said. "But that road has always been open. Thousands and thousands of commuters will testify that I never closed it. I only regulated it."

**Really? And what dictionary does His Honor use?**

City hall lawyers dredged up a raft of isolate edicts, questioning complainant Spadoy's legal personality and claiming injunctions against government infrastructure programs are banned.

What happened in the law that authorizes mayors to control traffic? Osmeña fumed. Clearly what was meant, the mayor mouthed the judges.

Until the order becomes final, city hall will issue separately worthless passes. But it won't install electronic or traffic signs for now, frankly said. The court assumed the role of traffic manager by its injunction. So, he'd dump this executive function on a judicial body.

"If cannot just wash its hands of any accidents here," he groused as spikes a la Ely Pamatong popped up on the highway. "I was just doing my job."

**Not quite.** All the court said was that the mayor screwed up his job.

"The real issue is not the road closure," said Spadoy in a supplemental pleading that had the backing of the fast-paced list of the Philippines.

What illicit barricade stems from the hatred between Rep. Eduardo Gullas and Dumrita over Talisay City's 38-minutes-to-midnight district-14 bid for one of Cebu's redistricting spot. A former Talisay mayor, Gullas' claim declared the issuance of titles for reclamation lots.

Dumrita can't afford delay. Serial decisions over the 580 lots of P1.5 billion roadside claims for original sin. Cebu businessfigure from P1.5 million daily payment to the Japan Bank of International Cooperation just for insurance, a full quarter of the city budget is hoarded by loan bills.

This major mainline problems by inflicting pain on the weak to compel action by the strong. His strategy includes blame, like vowing to dump garbage at LRP officers when it pressed city hall to implement garbage segregation or anti-littering legislation. Thus, he ignored Talisay residents from Cebu murders. He fined cockfighter's employees because they lived in Talisay.

"By flogging innocents control road users, Osmeña is living to compel Mabuchaing in to use the alien passes," we noted then. But urban harpists when inflicting pain as policy think in numbers with overconfidence?

In Nazi occupied Athens, the Netherlands, overconfidence led to the failed allied forces attack on "Arnhem" on Jan."

Mayor Osmeña is supremely confident in, above all, Mayor Osmeña. He governs by his Democratic Party's motto: No speaks for dissent. Not even his council was allowed to question his pet loans. Today Cebuanos taxpayers are handcuffed in almost double the national per-capita foreign debt repayment burdens.

In times of crises, Osmeña finds himself where he's most comfortable, in center stage. Earlier the mayor rode the emerging problem of water shortages in the Old Dandinarian a power failures and costly ire in finding out late in the day.

"The mayor shares with his Democratic party... the Spanish manner," said the Cebu Daily News editorial of March 5, 2003. "But such pretentions must back out for themselves into that communal respect, not culture... To paraphrase Winston Churchill, the mayor has all the virtues I dislike, and none of the vices I admire."

* * *

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## Fighting terror

**THERE'S THE RUB**

*Conrado de Quiros*

THE DEATH OF ROSA PARKS MONDAY LAST week triggered off a memory. That was Jack E. Weber's article in the Wall Street Journal in June's 30th five years ago. It contained this bombshell gem:

"It is a testament to the greatness of Martin Luther King Jr. that nearly every major city in the US has a street named after him, except Jackson. It is a measure of how nearly his achievements are misunderstood that most of them are located in black neighborhoods.

"Three decades after King was gunned down on a motel balcony in Memphis, Tenn., he is still regarded mainly as the black leader of a movement for black equality ... (He) for all King did as free blacks from the yoke of segregation, whites may owe him the greatest debt, for liberating them from the burden of America's civic-centered hypocrisy about race. It is only because of King and the movement that he led that the US can claim to be the leader of the 'free world' without inviting snorts of ridicule and disbelief. (And he and the blacks and whites who marched beside him failed, not despite of the US would have remained morally indistinguishable from South Africa under apartheid, with terrible consequences for America's standing among nations. How could America have continuingly wrongfully against the Iron Curtain while an equally oppressive Golden Curtain remained draped across the South?)

I remembered this as well in connection with an item I read last week or two page. The war was America's agency who worked for Bill Clinton saying the United States was losing the war on terror. "It's now battle to finance," said Daniel Benjamin, National Security Council official, wrote for counterterrorism from 1994 to 1995. "We have made some important successes getting individual terrorists. But I think the broader story is really quite sobering. We have done so far in the West, and we have done a lot to encourage people to how to."

Doubtless, a great of that has to do with George W. Bush who, for reasons only the American voters can say, remains free to run around the world. He is the single biggest enlargement for "people to hate us." But it really goes much deeper than that. It goes back to what white men about that "free world" America has been pleased to imagine itself leading, or indeed carve apart the world.

It's not just the current events inside the United States, notably the Homeland Security Act and the other measures the American Right has unleashed upon that country, that brings America's moral authority to live the world into question. It is the fact that only 10 years ago in Boca Pudio would be arrested and fined for refusing to give up her seat on a bus to a white man. The signs on toilets that say white folk or colored folk only may have completely disappeared in the streets but they have not done so in the mind. It is the Klanlike mob mentality of the supporters of a black folk outing all staff from supermarkets being described in terms as "looking mean" and white folk doing exactly the same thing as "finding bargains." Such double standards don't escape the notice of the rest of the world.

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And it's not just the pretensions, or indeed duplicitous, scrupulous of Iraq that brings into question the "American way of life." Our Bush has yet to shift nothing by such like that. Indeed, to the day there's a historic injustice America is wreaking upon another country that has yet to end. It's about to be enforced. That is the US blockade of Cuba. The American blockade of Iraq after the Gulf War lasted for only a decade, and wrought more deaths than the bombs it rained on Baghdad during the war. The American blockade of Cuba has lasted 40 years. The UN government imposed it in February 1962, banning all direct-line trade, aid, and tourism from fleeing into the islands. Indeed preventing other countries from having any economic dealings with Cuba. Today, with the collapse of the socialist world, the country is surviving largely on its own. That it has managed to do so is a testament to the strength of national and human will.

Today, Cuba will reiterate its call to the 191 General Assembly to end the blockade. Last year, the General Assembly already upheld Cuba's case, voting 179 to 4 in favor of lifting the blockade. The four against were the United States, Israel, Marshall Islands and Palau. Thankfully, the Philippines wasn't one of them, though it has now plenty much fallen into the status of the Marshall Islands and Palau.

What is Cuba's crime? No more than being black in Alabama in the 1950s it is committing the unpardonable sin of being a country of color. The United States then blacks do to white Americans. Yet it is being punished with a viciousness that finds its equal only in the way blacks were being strung up in trees in the American hinterland not too long ago for holding their heads high.

Israel Benjamin is right: The United States is losing the war against terror. But that is not for reasons that go well past current American politics that have grown monumentally disastrous. That is as for reasons that have to do with the kind of freedom the United States means to foster upon the world. And that is one for reasons that have to do with the terror Americans is fighting. Not too long ago, the blacks who rebelled against their slavery were considered terrorists threatening the American way of life; today countries like Cuba that rebelled against their oppressors are considered terrorists threatening the American way of life.

For Benjamin, the United States is losing the fight against terror. Its blacks and Cubans, and, for that matter, the rest of the world is winning the fight against it.

# GMA needs credible appointee to Ombudsman post

POLITICAL TIDBITS
Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

I think either Cagas or Villa-Ignacio would make a credible and competent ombudsman. Ouch should be particularly wary since selecting someone from "The Firm," for as in the case of Manny Carpio-Villamor, she would gain more than the appointment is being made primarily to protect her and her family's interest. GMA needs to make sound and credible decisions if she wants to regain her credibility more than ever before. She should have had enough of the Garci tape.

* * *

The Garci tape's author, Eugenio "Bong" Pacis, got into the news for various reasons. His latest was about his plan to testify in the People's Court, until he was discarded by his colleagues. According to Pacis, they were jockeying for medical publicity's favors. There is the story told by Sen. Joker Arroyo about a dining establishment owner her last month that drove Canadians, Americans and European customers in its working-class region. Behavior which made a Foreign Affairs presentation and was quite attentive. Asked who arrived last, out in the back but once a European joined him and asked, "Is it Ninoy Pacis today?" It occurred to Arroyo that Pacis came up to just the name of the Garci-Gate tape line and asked about the gist, "Yes, that was the game." The European replied, "Oh, that's the best." Arroyo added that "he is very articulate." To which Joker stressed confidently, "Mike is a key player."

* * *

National Historical Institute Chair Ludovico Orcampo has signified his intention to declare the EDSA shrine as a national historical landmark, "considering its historical and artistic significance as a masterpiece of Filipino architecture and sculpture" and declaring it "quite national artists." Among these national artists who contributed to the construction and restoration of the EDSA shrine are architect Leandro Locsin, painter Vicente Manansala and bronze icon and sculptor Napoleon Abueva. Among its earlier parishioners were former archbishop Jose Cardinal Sin and Pedro Arrupe. The destruction and the unveiling of a historical marker have been set for 5 p.m. on Jan. 13, 2006, the 50th anniversary of the legendary Father Delaney during which saints, angels, martyrs and the 1,000 dancers who helped to build the church will be in attendance. This event will keep EDSA almost paused on various activities as the anniversary draws near.

* * *

The cluster is now up to the Department of Justice over Hidilyn Diaz's case. Was Hidilyn "bad" enough to warrant submission for custody of the accused? And if the government decides otherwise, is it saying that the rape of a Filipina is not "serious" enough to warrant the full force of prosecution?

I'm afraid that if the DOJ decides to sweep the rape case under the rug, it could also send a heart-shattering and damaging message at the cost of the country. Bad enough that Filipinas have become the cause as little for the welfare, safety and human rights of women, but even if we are raped and abused by trafficked globally) by foreigners, maintaining cordial relations with the governments involved would called precedence over our collective justice.

* * *

THE US Embassy, by seeking to maintain custody of the accused servicemen as long as it can, is subtle to rights in promoting the interests of its citizens. But is the Philippine government, through the former administration, similarly seeking to sell the rights of its citizens to lesser right of prosecution against all forms of violence once violated in or against a woman?

We must remember, too, that the alleged crime was committed in the Philippines and could and should be investigated, tried and resolved on the our relevant Philippine laws. Already, another case in the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority has been dismissed by the Supreme Court. Under a more administrative body, have been accused of restricting the release of information regarding the rape case, particularly withholding the victim's sworn statement, violating a provision of the rape shield law.

This is, in many ways, a make or break case. But just as the stability of the VFA and the possibility of maintaining any sort of equality on our the act we must not allow any government, but above all, on the commitment of the State to preserve the rights of its citizens...even if this commitment should put it at loggerheads against the world's only remaining superpower.

# Another avenue for Subic rape victim

AT LARGE
Rina Jimenez-David

WE SET TO HOPE THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT makes headlines the rape case alleged against five US Marines in Subic last week, it will be handled with sensitive. If not, if the case is handled clumsily, especially if the handling gives the impression that our law enforcement never less than scrupulous in protecting the rights of the accused, or that the accused were given special treatment or preferential, then the government would be opening itself to potentially embarrassing international complaints.

The case raised by the victim – a 22-year-old college graduate from Zamboanga who was visiting Subic – if handled carelessly or with extreme solicitation of American authorities, could well be considered a violation of the provisions of Article 7 on the Optional Protocol of Cedaw to the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

The protocol, which is part of the international bill of rights for women, ties that legally binding international documents that prohibits discrimination against women and holds governments responsible for violations committed by them. By way of the UN Cedaw committee for the way they do or do not advance women's equality with men in their territories.

The Optional Protocol of Cedaw, or the other hand, is a human rights treaty that complements Cedaw and "provides women whose rights were violated a way to seek justice at the international level." Under the protocol, a case of gender-based human rights violation could come before the UN Cedaw committee through either of two ways: the "communications procedure" that empowers individuals or groups to submit petitions directly to the committee or through the "inquiry procedure" that enables the Cedaw Committee to investigate serious or systematic abuses of women's rights in member countries.

The Philippines is a signatory to the Cedaw and has ratified the protocol.

* * *

"THE PHILIPPINES has obligations to protect the physical integrity and human rights of Filipinas against violence, whether committed by the state or by private persons," declares former Ambassador Sionil Jose, who was elected last January as president of the Cedaw Committee. "Under the optional protocol, failure on the part of the Philippine government to adequately address rape victims' rights has been used to be taken as failure to guard against possible prosecution and security for Filipina women," she explains.

The protocol, Jimenez adds, requires that a complainant must have exhausted all domestic and available avenues for redress at the national level. But if it should happen that the Philippine government, out of a desire not to offend the United States authorities, or to protect the Visiting Forces Agreement under which the servicemen covered the Philippines, ends up insulating the accused rapists from the Philippine criminal justice system, there is no doubt that it will be up to an internationally adjudicated procedure that could possibly end up prosecuting not the servicemen but the Philippine government.

The case is in our hands, Jimenez reminds. "In whatever the government is looking to protect the rights of individual women, or looking or protecting our relations with a foreign government," in other words, is our government still trying to uphold the rights of Filipina women over all other abused women, as raised by foreign relations? Or is the main point to "bar duty for national security or for security of persons?"

* * *

ACCORDING to provisions in the VFA, the Philippine government may demand for the custody of an American serviceman accused of committing a crime if it thinks the crime is "serious" enough to warrant it.

Over 30 is the 50th anniversary of the first Mass celebrated at the EDSA shrine that long functioned as Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine in Greenhills, Quezon City. The Mass to that day with Bishop Honesto Ongtioco as main celebrant, will bring together past and present members of the Couples for Christ and other shrine community friends of the late Jesuit Fathers John D'Orsonge and Pacifico Ortiz (the first Catholic chaplains) and those who succeeded them, and APIN Ang and alumni who helped build the chapel through their prayers and sacrifices. To prepare for the event, a number of activities have been lined up, foremost of which are the novena Masses for nine consecutive Sundays at 6 p.m., with some previous chaplains as celebrants. The first novena Mass began Oct. 30 but since the List as the main celebrant, and the Lay and 6th Masses on Nov. 13 and Dec. 20 will be officiated by Msgr. Oscar Bernardo and Bishop Broderick Pabillo, respectively. Fr. Joel Jose, past and present, are cordially invited.

* * *

# Resentments

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY
Ramon L. Bacani

the article. I love man a man who obviously had taught for what he knew about what he knew enough to want to be a citizen. Let me make it clear that many schools taught us did their country a the Philippines, of a foreign invader, namely the Japanese. (In this day Japan has not formally apologized, as the as I know, but that on the face does not mean it is a bad country and people to live. Cebu even more and, our government isn't about to make a fuss. Note that the Chinese and the Koreans are the ones vehemently protesting Prime Minister Koizumi's visit to the Yasukuni that honors the souls of executed war criminals. For us, not a subject or whatnot of interest.)

But to go back to Captain Japan. If you have read the books on the source of the Americans in the concentration camps in Cabanatuan or near the border, it is abundantly clear that the Japanese were barbarians of the worst kind. Men could not be considered as human beings. The guard that who blew up the bridge (at the risk of their lives, mind you) to delay the Japanese forces. Both, also learned if the US government wants a couple more years, there may only be one or two veterans left to testify to this, it will be much cheaper to pay them off.

In another letter, Jo Ortenzone Arella laments the law that he believes we got from the Americans and our policemen to 1946. He remembers the days when Japanese occupation in Cebu being "stopped and imposed a number of times for not bowing low enough in the attitude" of Japanese soldiers who were watching in front of every house almost in every corner of Cebu. (Before when I grew up," the grandfather was fascinated, these young girl soldiers were not low enough, or were not bowing at all, they were severely punished. Some were even killed.)

Since he joined the United States Army's Free Cebuano Volunteers in prison and settled with them in the Philippine General Hospital, he saw with his own eyes how cruel the American Liberators from that invaded Manila with their marines, their 105s and 155s cannons. (To be fair, I think it was the Japanese who refused to declare Manila an open city and decided to occupy the buildings and indeed their chests up as fought for the last man. Therefore, bombing the area of down Manila was justified.) After the Japanese surrendered, in the midst of this devastation, Manuel Nieto declared an independence "in his desire to be known as the First President of the Philippines." I believe that "if Manuel Nieto was a true political scientist (!) he could've asked for dominion of our Independence until America had helped rebuild the country."

While the Philippines on its knees (where it up years we have remained ever since with our begging hands) Gen. Douglas MacArthur "tried to help... Japan was rebuilt faster than our country!" There are those who believe that this was done by the prospects — to show America's magnanimity in the aftermath of war. Others believe Japan like a bastion of democracy in Asia. It was easier to rebuild her industries since war was destroyed before the war.

Arella writes that "unintelligent" citizens "elected to office" have "destroyed the economy, businesses and the only who declared false war damage claims . . . meanwhile people who did not care about our people and the country" destroyed the fledgling democracy. "We become a country of mail lovings, war-profiteers, mistresses and opinion that very disgusting. Watching the ubiquitous jeeps, amputee soldiers and bad cracks. He never got indoctrinated."

Here's that for [illegible].

* * *

Comments to bsandiego@yahoo.com

# Quiet desperation

YOUNG BLOOD
Yasmin Lorenzo
U. Lobenzana

FOR THE PAST MONTHS, I'VE KEPT A LOT OF ISSUES wrapped in silence. I'm one of those people who likes not be touching on the subject but am watching lately.

Right after the "Hello Garci" tapes surfaced, my initial reaction was anger. And it seemed like everyone else was with the broadcast when it is original down by informer? She has no mandate.

In our life lesson, and now that's asking an entire people to accept a lie, like what we've been told since I was a child.

* * *

As I was getting myself ready to join street marches again, I bumped into an old friend in law school whom I've always respected for having an analytical mind. He argued that this was not the appropriate time for yet another people power and that GMA still retained our best option.

In the end of our discussion, I must admit I was half-way convinced by his arguments. Ironically, we had our talk at about the same time the opposition unveiled middle-to-super-small. Besides began to shoot my mind and eventually developed a sense of fear that by joining the rallies I would be unduly using the agenda of the opposition. I began to lose hope and took refuge in blissful indifference. I stopped religiously reading newspapers and watching the late night news on TV. I focused instead on other matters, until I became totally ignorant of what was happening around me.

For a few nights I had a recurring dream. I dreamt that one day night, when unexpectedly I got a wake-up call. I was watching an episode of the TV show "Extravaganza" on Studio Tango which exposed the pitiable state of education and literacy. It woke me up from my slumber and scared me. There are no more words to describe the "Hello Garci" The crisis of those young lads seemed to be begging me to do something. I began to chide myself for doing nothing about their sad and even draining of losing the political opposition to call the fighting. And as if to reinforce the alarm, I came across a quote from Joseph Addison saying: "There is no greater sign of progress and improvement than the willingness of men of real intellectuals for the good of their country."

I began to ask myself: Have we come to this? Are we no longer held together by a moral consensus and a sense of justice? Is our basis for truth really an incontrovertible factor or is it one's own weakness of purpose that is proving to be a barrier?

It is deeply disheartening to see that even religious leaders and some bright young men and women are beginning to accept GMA's "truth" because of the absence of a viable option to her leadership. That always believed that it is better to live in good right than to see the right for a better. No, I refuse to give up the struggle to restore the state of dishonesty that our national life. I cannot accept GMA's call to unite and build a strong republic for her. She has no moral ascendancy to assert that call. Her half-hearted apology only had the appearance of being a surrender to unjustified cries. Line on the gut, she could have no shades of grey.

After the impeachment complaint was trashed by her allies in the House of Representatives and now the policy of suppression of our basic rights through the so-called "calibrated preemptive response" and EO 464, it is clear to me that she does not believe in justice or democracy; the latest acts are incompatible with her call for national reconciliation. I would rather preserve the division afflicting our nation than support an evil unification.

At least here today some may feel me as ranting that by doing nothing, I am giving my approval for everything she was doing. I am glad to have been awakened from this nightmare of indifference. I cannot stay aside and can sit in silent desperation.

Yasmin Lorenzo R. Lobenzana, 25, is a law student.

# Enough of politics

Andrew Paulo Borja

I WOKE UP AVAILABLE MONDAY IN MARCH AND ON THOSE days when the "explosive" rants about Garci charging was exposed publicly, the lines started moving at 10:30 (Sickness per hour). I took to taking four blocks to my high levels to get to work.

Stupid rallies. The thought of having to walk four blocks in high heels is depressing—suicidal, even. Stupid high heels. Ugh.

I've grown to hate politics over the last few months. All the vulgar four-letter words to have an opinion about the government and hear it is boring me and also even it.

My every-hour friends and I spend hours (or afternoons in coffee shops) on end with no supposedness (but make you pumpkin than a ping pong ball and underground indie music that sounds like an epileptic hyena having sex with a porcupine. We talk about poetry and love and how the music speaks to us and the edge of our angst.

But when the topic turns unexpectedly (or aside of things poetic and angst intelligently about hard politics—about GMA and Garci and Ondi.

We have exhausted the topic. I think. I'm exhausted.

My mother watches development communication. A middle-aged educator, she wasn't like my saying this, but I think Ondi should be fired. She's from a regional perspective. Not all politicians cheat...she can see just go straight.

I don't vote for GMA. I didn't vote for anybody (maybe who's wrong is not how the government is being run or who is running it. Maybe it's who is being run there's the problem, I'm saying.)

That makes more sense than that endless overtunable of and politicians. We look for patterns. We feel bad about ourselves if we can't find a bad controversy. We have gotten an environment searching impeachment processes and presidential rallies and we have been numbed by it. Garci, Garci, Garci. We feel less than human without such things. It's really TV Patrol-style, where we run all these in a few punches without actually getting hurt. (This is the closest I've come to understanding the guilty pleasure of watching reality TV shows like "Survivor." But never mind that fascination with seeing only 10 people having breakfast every day and being able to say "What an idiot" and being acutely thankful that it's not us making fools of ourselves.)

So what if the opposition can possibly run the government better? It has never run the government before. At least GMA has had the experience of presidency. Although she may has behaved for cheating, but should we get save it now? It's not like this is still allowed to make his rightful place as president.

Andrew Paulo Borja, 22, finished her Bachelor of Science in Development Communication degree at the University of Capiz.

LPG tanks being readied for delivery

# Spare LPG from new EVAT law

I HAVE JUST RETURNED TO THE BUreau of Internal Revenue's roadshow presentation of the EVAT law. Personally, I am not in favor of implementing it on LPG. Of all the government products exempted by the law, only LPG is used by the majority of the poor.

Besides, LPG is right now sold by the tank which contains the standard 11 kilograms under Republic Act 7638. Other petroleum products which are sold by the liter and those—depending on the money you have—you can buy one, or two—or three or more liters.

Needless to say, the poor will be the ones to be hit hardest by the increase in the price of LPG because it would be very expensive for them to buy LPG on the cost of P500 per tank. The amount would be equivalent to one or three days' income of a daily-wage or below-minimum-wage earner, or almost half or more than half of his/her weekly earnings.

Some mitigating measures are (as) to have them narrowed. While they would be of help, I think the question remains: Could ordinary Filipinos afford the cost?

I am, therefore, calling and/or requesting the Department of Energy, the Department of Trade and Industry and other concerned agencies to please consider or issuing a circular reducing the content of standard LPG tanks to 9 or 7 kg only. This would allow ordinary Filipinos to buy LPG at P350, assuming that the government insists on retaining 12% of VAT.

I am also calling the attention of the oil companies to consider my suggestion in that they, too, would be able to help the majority of the Filipino people.

**—BONIFACIO M. BORJA (Ma), mapcdly@aol.yahoo.com**

# Why is GMA protecting onerous IPP contracts?

THE SUBSIDIES FROM HOST Coalition strongly condemns the continued protection given by the Arroyo administration to independent power producers (IPPs) while senseless calamity after calamity is being dumped on the poor in the face of the government's self-confessed impotence in controlling escalating power rates and curbing the foolish dollar, the PDC notes that a substantial portion of the Universal Power Corp.'s debt is owed to these same local IPPs.

Electricity consumers are suffering as a result of these IPP contracts. Mr. Arroyo, persists on an ordinary household's budget goes to payment of electricity alone. This is manna enough for the authorities to prevent the signatories of the onerous IPP contracts before the bar of justice and have their answers for their criminal betrayal of the public interest.

The PDC likewise calls upon Gen. Alexander Aguirre, chief of the Senate committee on energy, to make good on his promise to go after the big signatories to the first round criminal contracts, signed during the Ramos administration.

The PDC notes that instead Presidents Ramos appears to be ill, maybe involved in those of the first wave contracts scrutinize. Is Ramos' support for his Arroyo's continued stay in Malacañang a major contributor in not pursuing the anomalous IPPs?

The PDC challenges Senator Santiago to cross lands political partisanship and allegiances in favor of the greater public interest.

The PDC calls for the aggressive investigation into these onerous contracts and the prosecution of the signatories thereto, if not by the Arroyo government—because of its indivisibility affiliated with Ramos—then by the government that will succeed her administration.

**—ANA MARIA D. SORIANO, president, Freedom from Debt Coalition; Ed Maringka Jr., General Member, Quezon City**

# COA to blame for failure of anti-graft drive

SENATOR EDGARDO ANGARA ASKED about corruption in government. The senator of corruption have spread so far down government unit—the barangay, indicating that corruption is now so widespread and getting worse. It is already a common perception among Filipinos that in every government transaction, there is always an "under the table" involved "SOP."

A constitutional body—the Commission on Audit—is said to be the watchdog of the integrity of government. It appears that the COA has failed in the performance of its duties and responsibilities as mandated under our Constitution. Only small fish, like municipal treasurers and disbursing officials of the Department of Public Works and Highways have been found distressing public funds illegally for government contracts or non-delivery of peace-and-order campaign.

Despite the widespread corruption, not a single member of Congress has denounced the failure of the COA to audit our agencies. Not even the Senate is investigating the anomalous transactions of the government, perhaps, it is also proper for the senators to look into the performance of the COA, considering the fact that the salaries of COA officers and employees come from taxpayers' who audits the auditors?

It is very unfortunate that the President is unfairly blamed for the corruption in government, as no one blames the COA whose main task is to protect taxpayers' money from being wasted and spent illegally.

**—ROMUALDO F. TY, 7 Poblacion Occidental, Sabtang, Batanes**

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LETTERS

## The real tragedy on Mt. Diwalwal

THE ARMS SMUGGLING TRAGEDY IN Mindanao, Davao del Norte, is a sober reminder of the government's dismal policy on mining. The 11 people who died in that disaster added to a long list of underground casualties, which could have been prevented if the government had acted sooner.

The recent mining disaster should be seen in its larger perspective. The country may be rich in mineral reserves, but the profits derived from their extraction serve mostly go to the national coffers. Instead, the bodies of poor miners get scattered in the earth.

While the government looks at small-scale mining as a nuisance to mineral-rich areas, it blatantly allows environmental mining corporations to operate over and exploit our mineral resources under tax-holiday incentives. Many of these corporations are owned and/or controlled by foreigners. When Glenn Mucogllappi Arroyo visited Mt. Diwalwal in 1998, he did not see the real miners—the poor local inhabitants who do not have equipment and capital to operate big mines. Instead, he saw the foreigners who have the money and equipment to operate big mines.

Mining is an industry that is capital-intensive and labor-extensive. Most of the jobs created by mining companies are low-paying and unskilled. Most of the profits go to the foreign investors. Mining companies are also known to be among the worst polluters of the environment.

Mining is a dirty industry. Its operations destroy the environment. Its wastes pollute the land, water and air. Its tailings dams are ticking time bombs. Its open pits are gaping wounds on the face of the earth. Its underground tunnels are dangerous to the miners working in them

Across the NATION

# Tollway firm sues ex-chair for estafa

SUNSHINE
The only light available in the tunnel is Mr. Dimalo, Caraycan's killop is that from an electricity-powered lantern being held by a miner as he and a colleague dig manually for gold ore, which has driven thousands of people to the mountain in search of their share of the windfall, wealth from finding gold.

CALAMBA CITY—A TOLLWAY COMPANY OPERATING THE STAR (Southern Tagalog Arterial Road) Tollway in Batangas has filed 21 counts of estafa against its former chair for alleged irregularities in the release of funds amounting to more than P12 million.

Gaston Quiambao, past chair of the Star Infrastructure Development Corp. (SIDC), a unit hefting the P12-million estafa cases before the Batangas City prosecutor's office for issuing "questionable cash advances" to companies, which his family allegedly owns.

Lawyer Bede Tabalingcos, SIDC counsel, said the company filed the cases after an audit report done by the well-known accounting firm Punongbayan & Araullo (P&A) showed that Quiambao released the release of funds from SIDC without the approval of the SIDC board of directors.

He said the audit report covered the firm's financial transactions from 1998 to 2003.

Tabalingcos said the chairmanship of the young playmate led to the expulsion of Quiambao from the company a few months ago.

SIDC is a joint venture among six companies, including Quiambao's strategic investment Corp. (broker), he said.

The audit report showed that Quiambao released the money in cashiers's like blanks and those other companies, which are supposedly owned by Quiambao's family.

"The auditor found out that the money were released only as cash advances. But it did not specify what the money was released to and why SIDC paid those twice," Tabalingcos told the reporters.

"There were no services rendered, no contracts and no products delivered to the company. In short, he siphoned the money to his companies," he added.

He said the irregularities led to the delay of the multimillion-peso road project that will connect the Calamba portion of the South Luzon Expressway to the Am. Tenan, Batangas part of the STAR Tollway.

"But since he was kicked out from the company, SIDC has now regained the trust of its foreign partners," Tabalingcos added.

He said the SIDC is expecting to uncover other irregularities in the form transactions of Quiambao since the audit report for the year 2002-2005 is done.

Among the deals being investigated by the board of directors is how a P138-million bank loan incurred by the SIDC was spent under Quiambao, he said.

Quiambao vehemently denied the accusations against him and labeled them as "baseless" suits.

"These trade cases are harassment suits and preemptive lawsuits against me because of the fraudulent transfer of my company's 20-hectare commercial area holdings in STAR Tollway," he said in a text message sent to the INQUIRER.

Marilyn Ramos, PID Southern Luzon Bureau

## Communist guerrillas raid cult church, kill 3 cultists, hurt 3

BUTUAN CITY—GUERRILLAS RAIDED A church owned by an anti-communist cult in a remote village here and killed three persons and wounded three others.

Senior Supt. Ramon Espiritu, city police chief, said the victims, members of the cult Independent Assembly of Missionary Believers (IAMB), were preparing for a ritual when attacked by the rebels, numbering around 20, in Sitio Sangay, Bugsukan Village, at around 8 a.m.

Espiritu said several IAMB members tried to fight back but were overpowered by the rebels.

The attack came just days after the 56th anniversary of the IAMB, which was founded by Felicisimo Manalo, a former Iglesia ni Cristo minister who broke away from the mainstream church in 1949 and established his own religion.

Killed were Teodoro Baluran, Cyrus Iverna and Alfredo Martinduque.

Espiritu condemned the killing, saying the rebels were noncombatants that must be spared from the armed conflict.

"This is a senseless because the victims are members of a religious group," he said.

Army spokesperson Maj. Ramsbeni Bacarro said the NPA rebels shot the civilians Sunday as they were cleaning the chapel in front, about 700 feet southwest of Manalo.

He said the attack was in revenge for the cultists' refusal to join the guerrillas. Franklin A. Caligyuid, PDI Mindanao Bureau with AP

## Unicef report questions role of youth councils to help kids

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

CHILDREN chip off rocks from Mt. Diwalwal.

BAGUIO CITY—Efforts to tap Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) to represent Filipino children, who are fighting to escape from all forms of violence in their midst?

That's the core of a United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) study that will supplement a Philippine report on violence against children, said Lina Laygo, country director of the Council for the Welfare of Children.

Fifty-one children, representing the country's 40 million toddlers, grade school pupils, and teenagers, endorsed the final Philippine report to the Unicef during a national consultation on Sunday here. The Philippine report, which will be released by yearend, will come close to a universal children's report for 2006.

The report highlights the fact that 86 percent of the Filipino children surveyed by government suffer "psychological, physical and sexual abuse, neglect and neglect at least once in their lifetime."

Laygo said the government had asked for Unicef intervention in evaluating the impact of the DK on child rights advocacies, after hosting a disturbing trend towards political manipulation.

Others, she said, politicians also intervene in the selection of SK representatives in these councils.

The report would help the government decide whether it would retain the SK or proposed reforms for local autonomy, she said.

She said feedback from the consultation on the council's plan raise the same questions about the SK.

Laygo said the key to promoting child rights is the youth's unconditional access to protection. "Don't let the dynamic [discourage you from becoming involved] to governance," she told the consultation delegates.

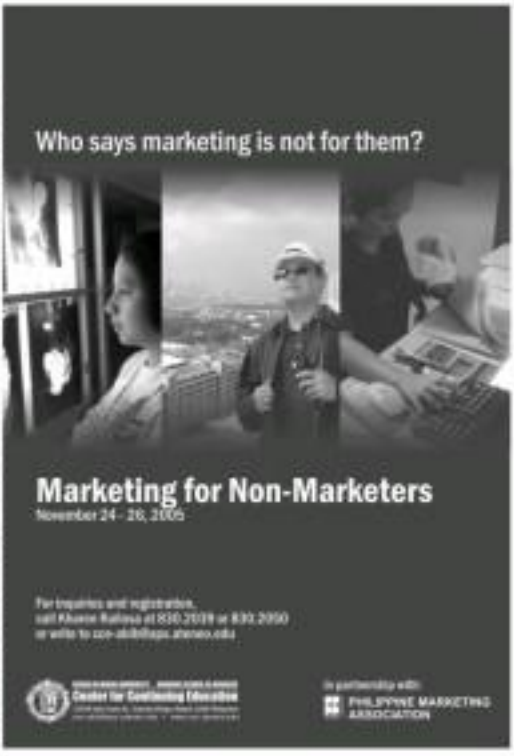
She said the country's political crises, which are emphasized via media broadcasts by street theorists and street cannons, should not harm the ordinary child, "whose attention is devoted to his own world view."

But the reactions of teachers, parents and administrators to street violence will eventually catch up to each and every Filipino child, she warned.

Youthful delegates, who saw the Philippine report to Unicef, also counted strengths to Philippine society.

"I really hope that once we begin to strengthen [one's ethnic's position of view], we will not react with violence," 500 kind basic to govern each other and help reach other upon our because even though we all pray to Allah for guidance, he cannot help us if we do not help ourselves," said a 17 year-old male named, who called herself as "if" what each delegate was asked to share the Philippine report's life lessons.

The delegates also asked for better juvenile justice policies for some, they said, "severe children are still beaten up for making small mistakes."

# Consumers in provinces seen paying Manila power

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—THE GOVERNMENT failed to explain why even consumers from the provinces will end up shouldering the power consumption of distant Manila, despite assurances from the finance department that the expanded value-added tax on power and fuel will be mitigated, the Association of Philippine Electric Cooperatives (Apec) said here.

### Shell game

Luis Manuel Corral, Apec secretary general, said Malacañang is playing "a shell game" because they have not revealed the fact that local cooperatives are still expected to pay local franchise taxes.

Already incubated by a 10-percent VAT, all 119 electric cooperatives are therefore expected to further increase future power rates by another 2 percent, unlike the Manila Electric Co. (Meralco).

### Cushion

The VAT law removed Meralco's congressional franchise tax, allowing it to increase power rates by only 8 percent. Corral said the Department of Finance described this action as one of the measures that would help cushion the impact of VAT on power on consumers.

But while the VAT law amended the 2001 Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira) to remove Meralco's tax burden, it did not amend the Local Government Code, he said.

Local consumers thus pose to cut governments the right to impose local franchise taxes.

"This is a case of the much poorer provinces subsidizing the VAT collections of governments... So 10 million rural—mostly poor—households will end up percentage-wise, and in real terms, paying a higher VAT on power than the 6.5 million Metro Manila residents," Corral said.

A MEMBER of the militant group Gabriela joins a protest rally in Davao City to demand the withdrawal of American troops in reaction to the rape of a resident in Subic allegedly by US soldiers.

# Mayor says US troops in rape deserve to be made fish meal

SAMAL CITY—THE CITY'S MAYOR, JOSEPH ... to talk tough, wannabe said he would have made fish meal out of the five American soldiers accused of raping a college student in Subic if they committed the crime here.

"If it happened here, I will throw them (American soldiers) to the Davao Gulf and allow fish to feast on them. Another flavor for the fish then," Mayor Rodrigo Duterte said during his weekly TV program on Sunday.

Known for his sharp tongue, Duterte called the suspects idiots.

And so, if to them a story warning, Duterte said, "I will arrest every American unless they are with my city, carrying a gun, and acting as if he is a Filipino... They should behave here properly."

But he was also quick to appeal to the people not to be too emotional about the reported rape in Subic.

### Anti-war games

Duterte said the rape in Subic was one of the reasons he has been consistently anti-about allowing Americans and Filipino soldiers to conduct military exercises here.

He said the government and its agreement with the US government should take all the blame for the incident.

"The government has to be blamed... for allowing Americans to go here and rape our women," Duterte said, adding that was the last time to return or to up the visiting forces agreement (VFA) between the Philippines and US governments.

"What is surprising about the holding of joint military exercises is that we don't really expect a large-scale enemy invasion. But thanks to the equipment of the Americans," the mayor said.

### Concerns

"What we are worried about is terrorism and what we need are warm bodies on the street for intelligence and defense," he added.

He also said that he is concerned about Filipino counterparts. American soldiers are less talented and skilled. He said Filipino soldiers are 15 times better than the Americans "who are afraid to die."

He also criticized what he called the awful history of American soldiers in Asia.

"The Americans perpetrated at least 60,000 crimes while they were in Asia for many years, including rapes and other crimes... that is the reason why I don't want the holding of the military exercises in Davao," he said.

The alleged rape was also condemned by the party-list group Gabriela Kongressmen.

"We challenge the Philippine government and the Visiting Forces Agreement commission to make the appropriate decision over this matter, and should be made to the rape victim and not immunity to the US soldiers who are perpetrators of rape," said Atalah Al Taliman, national vice chair of Kuro Kongressmen.

Taliman said they could not help but be scared for the lives of the women in their communities in Mindanao where there is an overwhelming presence of US soldiers on humanitarian and training missions together with the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

"We call for the US troops to leave our communities. We will always be insecure in our communities should the government fail to address the call for prosecution of the US servicemen (in the Subic rape)," she said.

In 2002, the US government was also successful in whisking away an American soldier who was accused of shooting a Mitsu farmer during the US-RP security operations in Basilan.

To justify the shooting, the Philippine government instead arrested and detained the victim, Rustan Ahadin, and accused him of being an Abu Sayyaf member, Taliman said. Jeffrey M. Tupas and Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Simpleng Kaliga-Yahan
Ang sarap makauwi
Ang sarap makapasyal!

DOMESTIC FLIGHTS

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| MANILA to BACOLOD | | | BACOLOD to MANILA | | |
| JP 766 | 0700 | daily | JP 766 | 1610 | daily |
| MANILA to CAGAYAN DE ORO | | | CAGAYAN DE ORO to MANILA | | |
| JP 530 | 0800 | daily | JP 531 | 1000 | daily |
| MANILA to CEBU | | | CEBU to MANILA | | |
| 5J 211 via MCO | 0700 | daily | — | — | daily |
| 5J 211 via CLO | 0700 | daily | — | — | daily |
| JP 772 | 0800 | daily | JP 774 | 1210 | daily |
| MANILA to DAVAO | | | DAVAO to MANILA | | |
| 5J 209 via CEB | 0600 | daily | 5J 774 via CEB | 1140 | daily |
| JP 262 | 0800 | daily | JP 544 | 1610 | daily |
| MANILA to DUMAGUETE | | | DUMAGUETE to MANILA | | |
| JP 760 | 0645 | daily | JP 760 | 0730 | daily |
| JP 760 | 1200 | daily | JP 784 | 1040 | daily |
| MANILA to GENERAL SANTOS | | | GENERAL SANTOS to MANILA | | |
| 5J 209 via CEB | 0600 | daily | 5J 774 via CEB | 1140 | daily |
| MANILA to ILOILO | | | ILOILO to MANILA | | |
| JP 700 | 0600 | daily | JP 732 | 0700 | daily |
| JP 700 | 0700 | daily | JP 734 | 1020 | daily |
| JP 732 | 1600 | daily | JP 736 | 1740 | daily |
| MANILA to PUERTO PRINCESA | | | PUERTO PRINCESA to MANILA | | |
| JP 212 | 0715 | daily | JP 214 | 1130 | daily |
| MANILA to TUGUEGARAO | | | TUGUEGARAO to MANILA | | |
| JP 2261 | 0940 | daily | JP 2261 | 1400 | daily |
| MANILA to ZAMBOANGA | | | ZAMBOANGA to MANILA | | |
| JP 551 | 1020 | daily | JP 552 | 1400 | daily |
| JP 551 | 1030 | daily | JP 552 | 1730 | daily |
| JP 773 (340) via CEB | 0600 | daily | JP 661 774 via CEB | 1120 | daily |
| CEBU to BACOLOD | | | BACOLOD to CEBU | | |
| JP 810 | 1205 | daily | JP 811 | 0945 | daily |
| CEBU to DAVAO | | | DAVAO to CEBU | | |
| JP 320 | 0905 | daily | JP 321 | 1145 | daily |
| CEBU to ILOILO | | | ILOILO to CEBU | | |
| JP 560 | 1310 | daily | JP 561 | 0805 | daily |
| CEBU to GENERAL SANTOS | | | GENERAL SANTOS to CEBU | | |
| JP 772 | 0905 | daily | JP 774 | 1130 | daily |
| CEBU to ZAMBOANGA | | | ZAMBOANGA to CEBU | | |
| JP 560 | 0905 | daily | JP 561 | 1130 | Tu Th Su |
| CEBU to PUERTO PRINCESA | | | PUERTO PRINCESA to CEBU | | |
| JP 212 | 0905 | daily | JP 214 | 1130 | Mo/We/Fr/Sa |
| BACOLOD to DAVAO | | | DAVAO to BACOLOD | | |
| 5J 435 via CEB | 0840 | daily | 5J 812 via CEB | 1130 | daily |
| BACOLOD to GENERAL SANTOS | | | GENERAL SANTOS to BACOLOD | | |
| 5J 771 via CEB | 0840 | daily | 774 812 via CEB | 1130 | daily |
| BACOLOD to PUERTO PRINCESA | | | PUERTO PRINCESA to BACOLOG | | |
| 5J 813 via CEB | 0840 | daily | 814 812 via CEB | 1130 | daily |
| BACOLOD to ZAMBOANGA | | | ZAMBOANGA to BACOLOG | | |
| 5J 443 via CEB | 0840 | daily | 443 812 via CEB | 1130 | daily |
| ILOILO to DAVAO | | | DAVAO to ILOILO | | |
| 5J 435 via CEB | 0835 | daily | 5J 812 via CEB | 1130 | daily |
| ILOILO to GENERAL SANTOS | | | GENERAL SANTOS to ILOILO | | |
| 5J 771 via CEB | 0835 | daily | 774 812 via CEB | 1130 | daily |
| ILOILO to PUERTO PRINCESA | | | PUERTO PRINCESA to ILOILO | | |
| 5J 813 via CEB | 0835 | daily | 814 812 via CEB | 1130 | daily |
| ILOILO to ZAMBOANGA | | | ZAMBOANGA to ILOILO | | |
| 5J 443 via CEB | 0835 | daily | 443 812 via CEB | 1130 | daily |
| PUERTO PRINCESA to DUMAGUETE | | | DUMAGUETE to PUERTO PRINCESA | | |
| JP 214 | to connect | JP 761 | JP 760 | to connect | JP 213 |
| DAVAO to PUERTO PRINCESA * | | | PUERTO PRINCESA to DAVAO * | | |
| JP 322 | to connect | JP 212 | JP 214 | to connect | JP 4536 |
| ZAMBOANGA to PUERTO PRINCESA * | | | PUERTO PRINCESA to ZAMBOANGA * | | |
| JP 561 | to connect | JP 212 | JP 214 | to connect | JP 561 |
| — | — | — | CAGAYAN DE ORO to ILOILO | | |
| | | | JP 534 | to connect | JP 737 |

REGIONAL FLIGHTS

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| MANILA to CANTON (GUANGZHOU) | | | CANTON (GUANGZHOU) to MANILA | | |
| JP 350 | 0400 | 0810 | JP 350 | 0720 | 0805 | Thursday |
| JP 350 | 1400 | 1810 (Fri) | JP 350 | 2240 | 2355 (Sun) | JP 350 (Fri) & JP 350 (Sun) |
| MANILA to SHENZHEN | | | SHENZHEN to MANILA | | |
| JP 586 | 1000 | 1600 | JP 587 | 1600 | 1800 | Tue and Sat |

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# METRO

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Edna Rose G. Dipasupil

# NBI busts firearms-for-cyber syndicate

ARMS for resell? Suspect Yabing (second from left) with NBI Wycoco (right).

By Margaux C. Ortiz

DRUG SYNDICATES ARE SO passé! In a new and equally lucrative form of business.

National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) officials made the disclosure yesterday as they presented a suspected member of a cyberwise drug group which allegedly turns out high-powered firearms to bank robbers and kidnappers.

Archie Yabing Yabing, 28, of No. 47 Arabic 2, Imus, Cavite, was arrested during a raid conducted by agents of the NBI Reaction Armed and Intervention Division (RAID) and the Amnesty National Capital Region (NCR) Office last Friday. Yabing is allegedly part of the notorious Rolito Yabing group, a local drug syndicate operating in Metro Manila and other Southern Tagalog areas, including Cavite province. Jaime Santos, chief deputy of Bolinao's Justice, also of the same address, remains at large.

"Apart from drug dealing, the group also sells out high-powered weapons to other criminal groups," said NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco. Dealers do not normally use powerful assault weapons like the ones seized from the Santos-Yabing group during their drug-related transactions, he added.

Among the firearms seized from the suspect was an FIE MP-5 9mm sub-machine gun, which Wycoco said was "one of the finest assault weapons ever made. We do not even have this weapon because it is too expensive." The FIE MP-5 runs P200,000 to P250,000 in the black market.

NBI agents also seized an Uzi mini machine gun, an assault weapon designed for heavy combat and "usually handled only by soldiers."

"These kinds of firearms are not issued to our law enforcers, making them vulnerable to some criminal groups who have access to such sophisticated equipment," Wycoco said.

Also confiscated were an M-14 (Winchester) rifle with a loaded magazine, a Colex 9mm rifle with a behind-fed magazine, an Elisco M-16 Baby Invader with a loaded magazine, a shotgun, 12-gauge shotgun, a Walther caliber .22 LR rifle, a Remington model 700 caliber 7mm bolt-action rifle, and different ammunition for caliber .22, 5.56/M-14, and 12-gauge shotgun.

"Based on other ammunition and magazines seized, there would still be weapons kept by the group which they may have hidden or sensed out," Wycoco said.

# MRT 3 gets brand-new electronic tickets

By Clarissa S. Bedoy

THE WAIT IS IS FINALLY RETURNING. new tickets with the arrival of 125,000 new electronic passes.

Hundreds of thousands more were expected this week, railway officials said.

MRT 3 general manager Roberto Lastimoso said, by the end of the week, all tickets would be new. The railway operating firm requires more than 400,000 tickets everyday.

Lastimoso said the arrival of the new passes would minimize the long queues.

### Stored-value cards

MRT spokesperson Melo Jane Jose said the agency could start selling stored value cards again. The railway system expected at least half-a-million new passes.

The MRT 3 had been short of electronic tickets since July when Meralco stopped the agency from using passes with the photograph of former President Estrada.

Carrying a daily average of 420,000 passengers on weekdays, it made do with about 200,000 passes, resulting in long queues.

The MRT 3 also restricted the sale of stored-value cards or those purchased with P100 worth of ticket because of the ticket shortage.

In addition to the tickets it ordered, government officials said a security device was detecting half a million electronic passes to MRT 3.

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# Is INC coddling a criminal?

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

HERE'S THE FAILURE Rabasa tastes one last time. Okay, he didn't paint bad for Tyrone Santos, the famed Santos, an esteemed earlier Military intelligence prior made the mistake of assuming Rabasa of passing himself – bad. But I learned himself admitted Rabasa acted as guarantee for his bail bond.

Insurance companies don't issue bail bonds for Muslims charged in courts because most of them allegedly jump bail. So, insurance companies charge big sums for bail bonds of accused Muslims. Because Summit insurance and Surety Bonds wouldn't trust himself, Rabasa acted as guarantee.

Posting bail for the accused and acting as his guarantor to the insurance company amounts to the same thing. Santos wouldn't have been released had not Rabasa used his reputation and influence to cut him free.

I would be the last man to accuse a fellow you toilet of wrongdoing. If I thought he didn't do wrong, Bining a notwithstanding columnist, I can get hurt when fellow journalists write adverse reports about me. Moreover, Julius is my brother Ferrin's compadre and close friend. I must tell you that I also get persistent hostilities.

But I would be remiss in my job if I didn't point out Rabasa's mistake. Julius probably didn't have any malice in mind when he sprung Santos from detention since the latter's offense was bailable. But he should have shunned the last between his personal feelings for Leonard and his professional, as well as the public's interest. Reporters who cover controversial stories have to be objective, meaning they should not take sides.

* * *

Public interest should take priority over personal feelings. And as it goes with the Santos case, the public interest is clear. The Iglesia ni Cristo (INC), a religious sect that I have high respect for, is coddling a convicted criminal.

Perhaps INC Chief Minister Eraño "Ka Erdie" Manalo doesn't know this but one of his members who was convicted by the courts was able to get back into the Philippines National Police using the influence of the INC.

Supt. Jerry Talavera, now chief of the Anti-Illegal drug task force of the National Capital Region Police Office, was convicted in 1996 of grave coercion.

He got off on a lesser offense from the original kidnapping for ransom. Somehow, the kidnapping for ransom charge was downgraded to grave coercion.

Talavera still has to serve a six year prison term for illegal possession of firearms which came at the same time with the grave coercion charge, apart from six months for grave coercion.

But INC records show he wasn't jailed after pleading guilty. Talavera was kicked out of the PNP as a result of these convictions.

Several years ago, upon the intervention of a certain Ka Tindo de Vera, INC's chief minister for Tarlac, Talavera got back into the service.

If Ulin is not coddling or harboring a convicted criminal, I don't know what it.

# Detained for no cause

By Nancy C. Carvajal

A JAPANESE CITIZEN, RUSTOMO reported to have been kidnapped in Malabon City, showed up yesterday at another headquarters in his abduction charge against three Quezon City anti-drugs operatives.

Supt. Alfred Corpuz, chief of the Northern Police District, and other figures gave Rustomo, Sukiyoshi Kita, 49, of Kamiiwaen Village, Bunanpay Lungsur in Malabon, had complained he was arrested on trumped-up charges with no charges filed against him and detained overnight.

Kita filed a complaint against PO3 Frederick Balmeza and two unidentified policemen employed safely assigned to the anti-drugs unit in Camp Karingal, Quezon City. He claimed the policemen confiscated from him was stealing with his wife along Pampanga Bay Drive, Malabon, and detained him a measure of arrest under the name "Peter Chan."

Kita said the suspects forced him inside a car and brought him to Camp Karingal. He was later released the following day.

# "HOW TO MAKE YOUR COMPUTER AS EASY TO USE AS YOUR TELEPHONE ..."

By Webmaster Raymond Bombacher, and the research staff at Green Tree Press, Inc.

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"... I'm a businessman and grandma. I purchased your program out of self-defense because the grandkids know all about computers. Now I'm on the internet playing trivia games with several other ladies in Scotland!!!... you made it so easy."

— Margaret Hunter, Ohio

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## MetroBriefs

### Marikina ready for SEAG

Marikina City government officials are expected to arrive shortly. Fatima chief Senator Sujo Manuel Aguilar said about 250 policemen, together with operatives from the National Capital Region Police Office, will be tasked to smoothen security concerns at the sites. — Edna G. Dipasupil

### Export mart seminar

LEADING Edge Forum for Excellence Inc. (LEFFI), a group of entrepreneurs and marketing professionals, will host an export marketing seminar on Nov. 8 at the Business Center Asia, Export Bank, Diosdado Macapagal Blvd., Manila City. The seminar will have for its theme, "Winning Strategies for Exporting." For reservations, contact LEFFI at 5043884, 899-2, 2990133, 8965, 2990130, and 0915-7854439 or send an e-mail to leffi@hotmail.com or leffi@yahoo.com.

PRESIDENT EMERITUS
Br. Armin Luistro FSC (third from left) was conferred with the title of President Emeritus of De La Salle University recently. With him are (fr-l) Ed Quimson, President Br. Bienvenido Nebres FSC, Brother Visitor Br. Edmundo Fernandez FSC, and Br. Carmelito Quiteregio, DLSU-Manila association vice president.

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# Rod Strunk extradition sought anew

By Marguax C. Ortiz

THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (DOJ) is set to file another request for the extradition of the suspected mastermind in the killing of actress Nida Blanca.

Director Reynaldo Wycoco of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) said yesterday the second request for the extradition of Blanca's husband, Rod Strunk, would include statements from three witnesses who were at the crime scene four years ago. "We are hopeful since the case has become more solid with the testimonies of witnesses who surfaced recently," Wycoco said.

BLANCA

The Department of Justice would submit the papers to the Department of Foreign Affairs, which would then make the extradition request to the United States Department of State and the US Courts. DOJ. "The DFA will do the lawyering for us," the NBI head said.

He added the government already joined witnesses Andrada "Andi" Dalandan, Adelyn "Marie" Escudero and Ramcy Francisco under the Witness Protection Program.

California Judge Gregory Hollows denied the government's first extradition request in 2003 due to "conflicting and inconsistent evidence" submitted. Dalandan identified, through 900 pictures, Strunk, Philip Medel Jr. and businessman Mike Martinez, as among the four men who brought an unconscious Blanca to the Adamco Center. She also claimed she saw Medel punch Blanca on the left side of her face as she was transferred to her car.

Strunk and Medel had been charged in the Pasig City Regional Court with the actress' murder. Strunk left the country in 2002 and has since refused to return to the Philippines.

Family and friends of the actress marked her fourth death anniversary yesterday. "We feel frustrated, but we are hoping the case will be solved," said Cardinal Sanchez, Blanca's close friend. "God is the best judge." With Edson C. Tamaño Jr.

# Manila sets new traffic rules

By Tina G. Santos

THE MANILA GOVERNMENT STARTED IMPLEMENTING yesterday a new traffic code to the dismay of some motorists and jeepney drivers.

The code, approved by the City Council in March, is the first under ordinance Alfredo Lim, Manila's mayor and municipalities agreed to adopt. It reverts traffic ordering from the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) to local governments. Instead of the MMDA traffic colors, violators would now get Ordinance Violation Receipts (OVRs), Director Mendoza, chief of the Manila Traffic and Parking Bureau, said earlier.

But some motorists and jeepney drivers were not happy with the news. Larry Co, 45, a retailer in Binondo, said the local government should no longer create its own traffic rules. "There should only be one agency to manage traffic in Metro Manila," he said. Jeepney driver Greg Tumaru, 52, said the new traffic code only added to the confusion as motorists no longer knew whom to follow.

But Mayor Lito Atienza, president of the Metro Manila Mayors League, urged the MMDA earlier to comply in mandate and not to meddle in the implementation of the traffic regulations. "The MMDA should only lay emphasis and coordinate with the LGUs (local government units)," the mayor said. A technical working group composed of representatives of LGUs in Metro Manila could put local traffic rules into code.

SPORTS

Editor Teddyboy S. Molavidno

# O'Hara cops 2nd behind Mikola

## RP hope Sy ends up 4th

By Marc Anthony Reyes

ROSARIO, BATANGAS—JOHN O'HARA OF IRELAND swept the last two races of the Asian Formula Three Philippine Grand Prix Sunday and snatched second overall from Filipino Tyson Sy and Britan James Winslow at the Batangas Racing Circuit here.

Taking off from where he left off in Round 11 earlier Sunday, the 24-year-old O'Hara, of Shell Helix Kumho PCRT, rushed to the race-ending Round 12 in 11 minutes and 20.094 seconds for his third victory this season in the rain-hopping series before a capacity-crowd that included 200 Indonesian students cheering for runaway winner Anatolia Mikola.

Mikola, of Nations Racing with Throttlehead, settled for second in 10:43.963 and finished the season with 154 points, 10 ahead of O'Hara.

The Irishman ended the series by shocking 40 points, powering him to second from fourth in the series sponsored by Ashlee Mobile, PGST myDSL, Bounce Starts, Volcanized Tires and Lotus Hotel.

The 14-year-old Sy secured top fourth overall after crashing out in the final round with just two laps to go. He placed fourth in the finishing race after a failed attempt to overtake Mikola.

"It was looking good after 10 laps until he spun out. He has earned other overlapping a corner now the grandstand stretch.

Winslow seized the chance to steer fourth place in Round 12, and gain 10 points, allowing him to finish third overall over Sy 110-109.

It was a big turnaround for Winslow, who was disqualified for jumpstarting Sy at the start of Round 11 and, as a result, took off on last places in Round 12.

O'Hara secured up with 110 points behind Mikola, who finished the overall title when he finished third in Race 11.

"I didn't expect to finish second overall because I was far back before this leg," said O'Hara, who only had 70 points to show with two races to go. "I'm just happy that I came out strong in the final race here."

Marcelo Rodolfo Arfia, also of Barcelona, came in third in Round 12 in 15:49.013.

Another Filipino teenage star Dash Ortiz of Goldfield-Manuel Team Asia also encountered trouble when his car's front brakes hit the back of Arfia's car right in the first lap. He was forced to stop and failed to get his 30,000-dollar bet.

Dream Hanjin Jason Pili Moreno Incognito, Mikola's half brother, were second place behind race winner Kimmi Quennan to run off with the overall championship in the 6-encounter class.

IRELAND'S John O'Hara (above) glides toward the finish line, overall champion Anatolia Mikola (left) and O'Hara's celebrate their victories.

## Lean but able medical crew for SEAG

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THEY'RE LEAN, BUT BE BE DOCTORS, nurses and para-medical practitioners who will ensure the health safety of about 10,000 athletes and officials taking part in the Southeast Asian Games later this month.

But SEAG medical chief Jose Raul Canlas said their lean crew will be supported by 600 personnel who will be strategically assigned to 41 sports events that will be scattered in four key venues.

Canlas, the director of the Philippine Center for Sports Medicine, said they are working hand in hand with the Philippine Academy of Family Physicians to make sure athletes who will get sick, injured or wounded will be given swift and expert attention.

"We are also taking care of the environmental aspects as well as sanitation and food of the athletes," said Canlas.

For the three memorials of his group, according to Canlas, are to provide medical coverage, conduct doping tests and

CENTRO division's bowling champs show the prize awarded to them by PDA chair Mariel Prieto (extreme left) and president Alexandra Prieto-Benavidez (standing third from left).

FINALS SWEEP

## Centro Atletico nails Battle of Courts title

By Jeannine W. Poyo

THEY WERE THE TWO KIDS ON THE block. But no one took the competition more seriously than Centro Atletico.

"We have no one pro [here a pro] fight, but we never stopped trying to be champions," said Defender "Bulldog" Hernandez, coach and co-owner of the Cebu-based badminton club.

After almost a year of training, tournament rookie Centro Atletico swept defending title The Zone to bag the crown in the 2007 Battle of the Courts National Interclub Badminton Championship last Sunday night at the Bonifacio Drive.

Breezing through an early 14-1 lead in the first set, Mandy Cisneros and Beth Pedido easily took the ladies' doubles with a 15-3, 15-6 victory over Gia Pascual and Lyn Ballesteros.

Although slightly threatened in the men's contest, Centro Atletico's John Wilet and Jerson O'Hara survived Ryan Ballesteros and Nathe Santos, 15-11, 15-12.

Centro Atletico co-owner Luigi Abad Santos credited Hernandez for forming and training the surprise champs.

"We were unaware of our coach and our players trained twice [a day]," said Abad Santos. "We prepared for the tournament by practicing hard."

And the sacrifice paid off as early as the elimination round robin Centro Atletico emerged as the top seed in the northern leg of the nationwide competition.

"After the eliminations, we already knew our capabilities," said Abad Santos. "We sure that we had a shot at the championship."

And Centro Atletico, as predicted, marched into the top right in dominating fashion.

In the quarterfinals, Centro Atletico swept

NBA tilts on TV

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November 02 - 30

InqBox Question of the Week

How will the November 1 implementation of eVAT affect your life?

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# New, compact route for 23rd SEA Games torch relay

A NEW AND COMPACT ROUTE HAS BEEN approved for the torch relay of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games, prompting the collapse of the traditional activity into mini-ceremonies and inklings.

The Board of Directors of the Philippine Southeast Asian Games Organizing Committee (Phloc) made the change recently in the light of the scant resources available for what was supposed to be a nationwide activity ahead of the country's hosting of the biennial meet from Dec 27 to Dec 5.

Originally set to pass through 15 key cities and towns, the torch relay has since been downsized and will only include areas where there are official SEAG venues.

In the original schedule, the torch relay was set to pass through: Laguna, Batangas, Cagayan de Oro, Malaybalay, Davao, Bohol, Davao, Iloilo, Bacolod, Puerto Princesa, Baguio, Tagaytay and Laoag.

Several officials have earlier complained of the lack of coordination between Phloc and the local government units (LGUs) promoting the activity.

Cielito Samson, Phloc's media liaison chief, said the committee had to address the financial constraints in the Games' promotional activities.

But Davao Oriloc officer Ve Miles cited the committee's "insensitivity" to the LGUs' support.

"No one took the trouble to notify them and that's my frustration," said Miles, who recently resigned from his two positions as national torch relay project director and liaison officer to Davao.

Samson clarified that the LGUs were told to "wait for the confirmation" regarding the original schedule.

The Phloc board is said to have already apologized and expressed its gratitude to all LGU officials who extended their support to the undertaking.

"The board wishes to apologize to local government units that have already set the dates to participate in the torch relay particularly those which were included in the original plan," Phloc said in a statement.

Local Government Secretary Angelo Reyes issued an administrative order last September calling on the LGUs to support the torch relay project.

In the executive plan, the flame will be kindled from Mt Arayat by tranka-association president Adan Camacho. It is brought straight to Cebu City where officials of the Cebu Organizing Committee, along with Phloc trustees and Bacolod City Rep. Monico Puentevella, will embark on it.

The torch relay begins in Cebu on Dec 12 and will pass through Davao and Mandaue.

It proceeds to Bacolod on Dec 13 before going to Iloilo, Cebu and all venues within Metro Manila ahead of the opening ceremonies on Dec 27 at the Quirino grandstand.

"It's working forward," said Samson. "We didn't raise their hopes nor kept them hanging." With a report from Jeannette B. Payo

# Ginebra Kings on a streak with hot Menk

By Jun Nisnara

COACH SCOTTY THOMPSON'S SAN MIGUEL Ginebra bounced with two imports. One plays in the perimeter while the other patrols the paint.

There are the roles played by Jeast Lampley, the real import, and Eric Menk, the reigning league MVP who sets like one.

Together, they have powered the Gin Kings to their straight win streak so far reigning Smart Gilas PBA Fiesta Conference.

But Menk has been creating a stronger impact since his return from suspension two weeks ago, leading the Kings in counting statistics like Miguel Beer and Asi Taulava.

Last night's back-to-back Finals rookie and former MVP of the Philippine Collegiate Champions Rico Maierhofer, the Kings proved to be the more consistent team on the floor with his 18.5-point and 17-rebound averages in the past two games.

"I just want to go out there and help the team any way I can," said Menk, the towering

FULL POWER: Eric Menk goes in between Dwight Ramos and Mark Aguilar of Sta. Lucia Realty in a second match.

# Last chance for Kim in Samsung AGE stop

THE BRAND-NEW APALA GREENFIELD Golf and Country Club in Calamba, Laguna plays host to the Samsung Amateur Tour starting today with a big cast of 204 participants vying for the eight children titles.

It is the fifth and final leg of the nationwide elimination series and nobody is more pressured to win than reigning national champion Kim Chang Inn.

Kim fell out in the semi-finals after the grandfinals has been opened by national training pool members. The Korean runner's best finish in the series has been third place at the Subic club, the Royal Northwoods where he placed fourth.

Though not a single member of the pool is around this time, Kim will still have some top-level competition to contend with in the 72-hole championship division. The hostile site led by Anthony Villamor, Jeong Lee and junior golfers Gino Hamada and Yvonne Musongong.

The Samsung Amateur Tour is also sponsored by Tokyo Tokyo, IDEC, Maxwell, Coppertone Sport, Intrust, Philippine Airlines as the official carrier, Rustan's, Shade Project, 5 Limit Fiber and Sports Plus.

## Centro . . .

Family Badminton Center, Lily Pulido and Jingo Espinosa sponsored Adie Rapadapat and Jose Gilbuena, 15-2, 15-3, in the ladies' doubles, while the men's tandem of Nino and Jaime Victorio, Jong Sanchez and Apo Cruz and Schoo Gamos, 15-11, 15-12.

Adie team-mate Gemca Iglesias paired another 2-0 sweep over Quezon City Sports Club in the semifinals. Deanna and Pedrik Gotchett-Pizzuto to top and Shalini Lim, 15-11, 15-1, while Iglesias and Jingo defeated Renato Tai and Hope Simone, 15-8, 15-6.

"It was so tiring," said the 42-year-old Badminton queen, a former national badminton champion. "Our players are inexperienced professionals, but we practiced at least three times a week just for this tournament."

During the competition, Centro Athletes enjoyed strong support from club members who came to cheer . . . complete with drums . . . for the children.

"This tournament has become so competitive, you have to be serious about it," said Abad Santos. "You can't do it any other way. You just have to go all out. Our club members also knew that we need their help.

"It's exercise."

# Untitled Roque tops chess tilt

CHAMPION: Arasi Roque (fourth from left) with GM Mark Paragua (to his left) and the other top finishers.

FILIPINO CHESS RACER crowned a new grand titlist in 25-year-old Richie Roque, who recently mastered some of the country's leading players in the Gran Lili Asia 2005 Open Answer Chess Championship.

The unbeaten Roque garnered 7.5 points in the nine-round Swiss-System tilt, tying runner-up National Master Darwin Layla and Grandmaster Mark Paragua for first.

But the Mapúa Technological University varsity player took home the plum prize of P60,000 due to a higher tiebreak point. He also pocketed P3,500 for topping the Non-Masters category as well.

Layla was declared second overall (P40,000), while Paragua pocketed P30,000 for third.

The other top players were NM John Paul Gomez (fourth), who won P20,000, and IM Rogelio Antonio (fifth), who took home P15,000.

National Masters Mailer Bulosan topped ladies play and won P2,500.

**Blitz special (Rapid winner):** 1) Arasi Roque (Gomez) 2) Jerry Rapa (Tan Jr) 3) Jonathan Jose (Sandoval) 4) Dickie Villoso, Jose Abdon, Ram Lagman (Cruz) 5) Melvin Gonzaga (Mabit Tiffy), Jose Abdon, Ram Lagman (Cruz) 6) Melvin Gonzaga (Mabit Tiffy), Jose Abdon, Ram Lagman (Cruz) 7) Melvin Gonzaga (Mabit Tiffy), Jose Abdon, Ram Lagman (Cruz) 8) Melvin Gonzaga (Mabit Tiffy), Jose Abdon, Ram Lagman (Cruz) 9) Melvin Gonzaga (Mabit Tiffy), Jose Abdon, Ram Lagman (Cruz) 10) Melvin Gonzaga (Mabit Tiffy), Jose Abdon, Ram Lagman (Cruz) 11) Melvin Gonzaga (Mabit Tiffy), Jose Abdon, Ram Lagman (Cruz) 12) Melvin Gonzaga (Mabit Tiffy), Jose Abdon, Ram Lagman (Cruz) 13) Melvin Gonzaga (Mabit Tiffy), Jose Abdon, Ram Lagman (Cruz) 14) Melvin Gonzaga (Mabit Tiffy), Jose Abdon, Ram Lagman (Cruz) 15) Melvin Gonzaga (Mabit Tiffy), Jose Abdon, Ram Lagman (Cruz) 16) Melvin Gonzaga (Mabit Tiffy), Jose Abdon, Ram Lagman (Cruz) 17) Melvin Gonzaga (Mabit Tiffy), Jose Abdon, Ram Lagman (Cruz) 18) Melvin Gonzaga (Mabit Tiffy), Jose Abdon, Ram Lagman (Cruz) 19) Melvin Gonzaga (Mabit Tiffy), Jose Abdon, Ram Lagman (Cruz) 20) Melvin Gonzaga (Mabit Tiffy), Jose Abdon, Ram Lagman (Cruz)

# Spring Oil nips PCCr five for 3rd win in row

SPRING COOKING OIL SQUAD downed second double-digit loss early in the game for runnerup in time to nip MacDilver 77-75 in the PCCL, 104-58, for its third straight victory in the 2005 Pinta Open basketball tournament at the Philippine Red Cross gym in Quezon City.

The Cooking Oil Masters of national shooting champion Mechanical "Joe" Padilla and coach Elvin "Ving" Garcia kept their composure under grueling pressure to pull out the thrilling win and climb the lead with 3-0-0 Lyceum, which ripped Wing's Rollrish, 77-67, in another game.

Earlier, MacDaniel mounted 41 Masters, 1-0-1-0.

# Lean but able medical . . .

Turn to page B-17

ranks into the 1,000-plus athletes, officials (by and mainly time) up for the Games.

Cordon also hinted that they have finished the 89 delegation's pre-SEAG reconnaissance including day-trip to particularly among athletes in weightlifting and bodybuilding. So far, there are no reports of a serious athlete falling ill so far.

Concerns like hard-by and dengue, according to Cordon, are all so being taken care of.

# GMA should step in

I HEARD THAT JOEY GMA IS IN UNITED. And talking to Pilo Impela Patrick Bautista. I'm sure he went there to discuss the fate of basketball in the country and to mention Joey's expected resignation as PBA in 2007 and suggest so that we could have basketball in the SEA Games.

As I keep saying here, every few people are given the chance to play here. This is Joey's Chance of a lifetime.

Patrick Bautista would also endorse himself forever to the Filipino people if he'll grant Joey's request, which could be sustained anytime as the place of the entire Filipino nation.

It is also important that Bautista's office up on his previous hint that PBA would only sanction Philippine basketball if Joey's BAP (Basketball Association of the Philippines) is recognized as the official basketball body by the Philippine Olympic Committee (POC).

There's so much hate sports-related already that it's about time we shape up. Sports is supposed to conquer boundary, diplomacy and unite among peoples of the world. The PBA, being the world's prime entertainer in basketball sources, should take the lead on this.

Now if Joey Lina comes home empty-handed, I strongly suggest that GMA should step in by sacrificing the Consultant at the Malacañang.

In between sips of coffee or tea, GMA should convince her former DEG head to come to terms with Peping Cojuangco, the PBA president.

I don't think Joey Lina will hear the heavy to turn down a leader—the Chief Executive of that.

And to close pending up on Lina's core are not only whether there is basketball or not in the SEA Games, take heed.

While I believe we could win world basketball title, not to mention the Olympic basketball gold, we can win the SEA Games basketball gold anytime. In fact, we've kept winning it since 1977, if memory serves right.

The SEA Games basketball gold is the only one that we can realistically win. So why don't we go for it?

We can't win track and field events in the Olympics but we can in the SEA Games.

We can't win swimming, badminton or even boxing events in the Olympics but, certainly, we can in the SEA Games.

This is not the time for anti-basketball quarters to bash basketball.

This is the time to forge unity in all spheres of the sports spectrum because the SEA Games is the one event that can give us some pride as a nation.

Thus, a SEA Games without basketball is like an Asian Games without football, or like an Olympic Games without the marathon.

So, c'mon GMA a.k.a. SEA Games, what are we waiting for?

Pick up that phone and call Joey Lina now as time is fast running out on us. The SEA Games begins Nov. 27.

* * *

The breakfast between Chiz and Joey Lina—oh, include Peping Cojuangco—might get more in by the key.

* * *

A friend is a friend is a friend, and so my friend, Ryel Hechanova, is with us again.

She said she has good news for Pump Boys—Pump-ay is Ateneo's latest running food guru.

Ayer said that if you enjoyed your Pump 3.0 scrapbook October's flavor of the month is lightweight running shoes, you'll fall in love more with this month's new version of the Pump, which has long instituted boundaries of the conventional boundaries.

NBA star Allen Iverson has just released his Answer II, an all-new Pump technology, in time for the opening of the new NBA season.

"Iverson fans will surely love his newest invention," said Ayer. The hero of my fellows endorsement. Odd Hechanova.

Oh, well, between them just led his teammates clinching 111-109 victory over Indiana on Sunday Iverson had 29 points and 13 assists for Philadelphia in a smashing coaching debut for Maurice Cheeks with the Sixers.

If you have questions on Iverson's Pump-powered Answer II, call Ayer at 8617-5865/58.

That said, I'm now ready to think San Miguel beer again mule Chik.

Ordinary up, pulutan?

* * *

SEVERIANO: I won't be in town when a dear friend of mine will run a new lead on Nov. 13. But Arlen Santos, a bosom buddy of Gaspar's owner E.B. Bravo and alumna pillar Ricky Nelson, will emcee—or attempt—the annual birthday greetings, Pawing Ashes, and host's wishing for more to come.

* * *

E-mail: manpo@philstar.net

# McGrady's T-MAC 5 off the launch pad

AFTER LAUNCHING THE HIGHLY selling T-MAC in 2003, Adidas is introducing its fifth edition of NBA superstar Tracy McGrady's signature shoe series, the T-MAC 5.

The T-MAC 5 continues in part the brand-new technology of the functional basketball footwear by bringing together three ground-revolutionary design elements and Adidas' technology and performance centers.

From the technology and performance side, the shoe features lightweight yet synthetic leather with good fit, pods that are anatomically patterned for a molded snug. Within the midsole, there is internal EVA with a TPU heel chassis, concentrated molded PU outdoor with adiPRENE and adiPRENE inserts.

These components are put into the T-Mat 5 to provide the player with the highest performing basketball shoe on the market.

The T-MAC 5 has not issued it it.

"When we started designing the shoe, I really wanted something that represented me and my passion for the game, so we decided to do something that has two faces . . . one side is a basketball shoe, and that mimics the aspect of the court into it," said McGrady.

"It is also one of the lightest and most comfortable shoes I have ever played in, so when people check it out, I know they will love it."

Inspiration for the T-MAC 5 was taken from those design editors and the use of new soft and supportive can be throughout.

The T-MAC 5 is initially featured in two new colors: white/black/volt (released Nov. 21) and black/red/volt to be released on Jan. 1st, with an additional color joining the market in February 2006.

Retailer than 10 years, Adidas has been providing innovative products for the world's best athletes, from elite legends such as Jerry West, Oscar Robertson and Muhammad Ali to the current NBA superstars such as Tim Duncan, Kevin Garnett and Michael

TMAC? McGrady shows off his signature shoes.

# Bryant unlikely Tiger tamer at PGA Tour Championship

ATLANTA, GEORGIA—KOBE BRYANT DOESN'T call a challenge from world number one Tiger Woods on Sunday in pool a no-shot zone at the $6.5 million PGA Tour Championship that surprised even himself.

"I didn't think I could make it into the Tour Championship, and I certainly didn't think I could win," Bryant said. "I feared choking my guts out all week long."

Starting the final round with a three-shot lead, Bryant hit the first three of the first six holes to double his advantage and easily survived a final-round challenge from Woods to clinch his third victory in the past 14 tournaments.

The win was worth $1.17 million and bumped him to ninth on the money list. Not bad for a 22-year-old who never had previously won on the PGA Tour.

"It's a pretty historical description," said Bryant, whose closing 67 gave him a tournament record of 17-under par 263.

A nerveless, bright, straight hitter, Bryant led the field in both fairways hit and greens in regulation. But games were ideally suited for a twenty-four-year-Lakers-rookie-with-plenty-of-talent, and the mental resiliency he displayed in the cops with the pressure of bonding after every round was perhaps even more impressive.

"Last night in bed, I really pictured myself getting off to a really hot start, and that's what happened," he said.

Bryant bowled the cards, his lowest begins at the fifth and ninth holes gave his rivals a glimmer of hope.

The dropped shot at the par-three sixth could have been worse, because he found the water there at the green, and did well to limit the damage to one stroke by sinking an eight-footer.

"I was very shocked to see it counts back into the water," he said. "I thought if I just got my club on the ball, I was going to get over the water. I hit a just a touch heavy. That was an extreme moment. I started having things going on in my mind. Like, 'Your money can see clients in the water from this ball drop!'"

Second Sessions, who started the day in second place, was off his game, leaving it to Woods to provide the only real threat.

But every Woods was cost far back in recent years of a challenge.

He picked up three birdies to four holes midway through the round, but Bryant matched him and had the luxury of coasting to victory by playing the final six holes in one-over.

"Every week, I feel I belong there and I know where I am," he said. "I certainly don't put myself up there in the same category as Tiger, but I have found that if I focus top of my game, under the right conditions, I definitely can compete."

Woods, who shot 66, just refuse to the season.

"He did what he had to do," Woods said. "He was every consistent all week. He just kept hitting fairways and greens and making a couple of birdies and he finished a little spout on the back nine that basically sealed it."

Bryant will celebrate his career season by undergoing arthroscopic surgery on his left knee Tuesday. Next year, he will be exempt for all four majors for the first time and is looking forward to The Masters, which he has never played.

Down the leaderboard, consistent Scott Verplank (69) finished third at 277, while Stewart Cink (70) tied for a tie for fourth with Davis Love (69) and Vijay Singh (67), another two shots back. AFP

WOODS: He was very consistent

BRYANT celebrates after sinking his final putt on the 18th hole.

## SPORTSWATCH

### Nolte tops chessfest

NATIONAL MASTER FOLANDO NOLTE BITTED FOR a time against GM Mark Paragua in the seventh-and-final round to win sole custody for the open section of the 13th annual Goldwin Metropolitan Chess Championships held over the weekend at the AM Chess Hall, at 907 Aurora Blvd. to Pro. 2 to 1. Chairman Dy. Bello, actually secured an unbeaten final tally of six points with four victories and two draws to tie for top 2 chess players with GM Elmer Diwalibig, who appeared GM Jayson Lapis. However, topped for title and the championship trophy due to a higher Tie-break (Wilt) and Diwalibig shared the awarded P75,000 prize. Top-seed Nonoglen Rodriguez placed 3rd with 5 points, GM Richard Bitoon and Glen Balleza for 3rd-4th spots. Silver board GM Ronald Bernard with Balleza defeated GM Rustam Gelfander in the event supported by Chairman City 4th district councilor Richard Gluck, MBC and Wilcon Homes. FM Jayson Gonzales, WFM Jan Jodilyn Fronda and IM Ronald Dalogdog also finished with 5 points apiece. The 7th-9th spots with 4.5 points each finished at 4.5 points each for fifth. Fifth places went Lapis, Bernard, Tolentino, GM Oliver Barbosa, IM Arthur Pono, IM Randy Segarra, new members Noah Jude Feir, Jerry Wabbi and Stephan Charlemagne. Sixth to ninth places went Gelfander — Ronel Bernard (with 3.5 points) and IM Oliver — Rodriguez and top 10 finisher — Balleza. Last-ranked — WFM Rona Salvador. Top overall — Ronel Bernard and top 10 finisher — Manoguera.

### NCA 7-stag derby

SAN FERNANDO, PAMPANGA—THE CHAMPIONSHIP DERBY of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCA) will be held at the Clark Field Sports Complex in Angeles City, Pampanga on Sunday, November 9, 2003 at 10:00 AM. The derby will be held at the Clark Field Sports Complex in Angeles City, Pampanga on Sunday, November 9, 2003 at 10:00 AM. The derby will be held at the Clark Field Sports Complex in Angeles City, Pampanga on Sunday, November 9, 2003 at 10:00 AM.

### LGBA 3rd leg today

THE THIRD LEGS OF THE LUZON GAMECOCK DERBY, THE LUZON GAMECOCK DERBY, THE LUZON GAMECOCK DERBY,

# ENTERTAINMENT

E-mail: jr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Emerie Q. Velarde

## Fun jam: FrancisM & Maxene

By Marinel R. Cruz

FRANCIS MAGALONA, known for 19-year-old daughter, Maxene, her boyfriend.

But the singer-TV host said he wasn't at all worried, "sure if Maxene lives in Quezon City while her crazy, Pio, and I stay in Antipolo."

Francis told Inquirer Entertainment over lunch yesterday: "I tell her she should take responsibility for all her actions and consistent on things that are important. I don't have problems with her dating."

Maxene is a college sophomore in Theater Arts at the University de Manila. She shares a condo unit with siblings, Frank and Isadorsee their school.

"I'm very proud of the way my parents raised me," Maxene said. "I miss my younger siblings, but studies are my priority."

Francis said, "The new show that Maxene and I are hosting gives all of us a good opportunity to bond. We tape during weekends and bring along the whole family."

Father and daughter are hosts of QTV 11's, "Star Jam," a talent search featuring 11 families that will compete for a P1-million top prize. It is produced by 60 Entertainment Unlimited, Inc., and premieres Nov. 12 at 5 p.m.

Inquirer Entertainment had a fun jam with Francis and Maxene during the show's launch.

**FrancisM**

**Do you think Maxene is old enough to accept suitors?**

Pio and I have a certain style of parenting. We train our kids to be independent at an early age. We guide them but we don't control. At 19, Maxene is already independent in terms of her finances, love life and studies.

**Would you look kindly on a suitor with tattoos?**

There's this saying, 'Don't judge a book by its cover.' It the same as, 'Don't judge a guy by his tattoos (laughs)."

**How many tattoos do you have?**

More than 10. The first one I ever wore was a shark. It's my sign, made in Olongapo in 1986. The latest is the 'Free State and a Star...the Philippine flag...on my back, done in 1999.

**Would you allow your kids to wear tattoos?**

When they turn 18, they are de facto/see they want. It's up to only if I see that things are going overboard. My second son, Nico

(Title 4)

## Jericho says 'Panday' is 'breathtaking'

DOLLY WOOD

*Dolly Ann Carvajal*

PHILIPPINE TV'S MOST ADMITTED GMC Rivera finally begins tomorrow, when ABS-CBN unveils "Panday" on its "Primetime Bida" block.

Tonight they will air part 2 of the "making of" special on Sunday, titled "Ang Alamat Ng Panday." The two-part special which started yesterday takes viewers behind the scenes of this spectacular production.

Jericho Rosales leads an all-star cast in this **lavish remaking of the legendary story** first made famous by Carlo J. Caparas in Filipino Comics. **It promoted to make Philippine** movie history through a series of blockbuster **films starring the late Fernando Poe Jr.**

"This whole project is breathtaking," exclaimers **Jerusha Rosales, who plays Tricia,** a humble Aetgador who inherits the talisman **and sword of the Panday, service of mankind.** "I've wanted to play this role for a long time, and the project, as produced by ABS-CBN, is definitely a dream come true for me."

Jericho underwent a rigid training regimen which included wushu and other martial arts, horseback riding, sword-fighting and weight training. Caparas says, "I've seen the first few episodes. I'm happy to say that he is a worthy successor to FPJ, because while FPJ made the role legendary in several generations, Jericho is part of a new breed that can reach out to a new audience. I know that if FPJ were around to see the show, and Eduardo's performance as the new Panday, he'd give a thumbs-up. Maybe even a double thumbs up."

Let's see if Panday's sword can crack "kuratsalita" mystical powers in the tanhaga game.

Speaking of "Panday," heard from an insider that Jericho's leading lady, **Rivet Evangelista,** is not so well-liked in the network because of some attitude problems. **My sources says,** "She gets into the diva's-mode-as I'm-a great-actress mode." Maybe she needs to have a heart-to-heart talk with her "Kapamilya," love her lol-lowers have a change of heart.

### Rivermaya and the SEA

RIVERMAYA, dubbed "Ang Bandang Bayan," launches a tribute to Filipino athletes participating in the SEA Games 2005. The Philippines will be the host country for the landmark sports event from Nov. 27-Dec. 3.

Titled "Awake," this latest anthem from the band premiered yesterday in various radio stations. "It's about courage, strength and consistency to be the best," said Rivermaya frontman Rico Blanco. "These are qualities our Filipino athletes have in spades. This song was not only written for them; it was inspired by them."

Rivermaya is set to perform at glittering ceremonies to open the games at the Quirino Grandstand. They will be featured in the finale of a two-hour musical extravaganza featuring music from all 11 participating Southeast Asian countries—Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor Leste and Vietnam. The show will be broadcast live across Asia. Let's keep our fingers crossed that our athletes will all do a Pinoy-kiss and make pulpyow all the medals.

### SEA of problems?

STILL on the SEA games, a production staff member lamented that there are still no definite groups to handle the coverage of each event. "The coverage will be split among Channels 5, 11 and 4," he says. "Everything is so disorganized! To think the games start in a few weeks. Channel 5 wants more events but they don't have enough technical facilities. Hope that the millions that major sponsors are pouring in to the games won't be misplaced." Hopefully they will be able to iron out the kinks for the SEA games turn into a sea of goodness.

### No contest

*'Kigudow' premiere*

Dino Guevarra and Joel Torre exploit "Kigudow," about three Filipino street gamers in post-11 New York, cinematic but Utah Saints and Keith Sicat, with Hollywood sergeant Spike Lee among the advisers. It premiered at Cinemanila on Saturday. A second screen is set at the SM Film Institute on Nov. 3-4, 5 and 7 p.m.

# 'Chicken Little' rules roost in US, Canada

LOS ANGELES— WHY SKY IS STILL falling in Hollywood, even though Chicken Little and Go Warriors have hatched.

The box office rumbled again despite solid weekends for the animated "Chicken Little," which debuted with $40.1 million, and the desert Storm drama "Jarhead," which opened with $15.8 million according to studio estimates Sunday.

The films paced Hollywood to a healthy weekend, with the top 12 movies grossing $126.2 million, 3pt that was down 16 percent from the same weekend in 2004.

Analysts seem to be getting into the holiday moviegoing spirit. "Chicken Little" and "Jarhead" each came in as much as $10 million ahead of respective [illegible].

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc., official box-office tracker:

1) "Chicken Little," $40.1M. 2) "Jarhead," $15.8M. 3) "Saw II," $7.12M. 4) "The Legend of Zorro," $10M. 5) "Fever," $5.5M. 6) "Domino: Inspired by a True Story," $4.6M. 7) "Good Night, and Good Luck," $3.1M. 8) "Be Cool," $2.9M. 9) "The Weather Man," $2.6M. 10) "Doogal," $2.58M. 11) "Right Turn," $2.5M. 12) "Elizabethtown," $2.4M.

# Echo says . . .

THE RECENT BBC number three bawls-up was again dominated by television giant SEN CBN. Seems it's turning into an arena of no-contest affair. Nonetheless, some doubt the credence of the awards since no close competition can be seen. Truly, the best and the brightest deserve to be acknowledged, so we solely rejoice for Kapatiran channel with its vital network consistently having the greater number of viewer nowadays.

It can be recalled that GMA 7, today's leading television network, salvage and profit-wise, left the BBC two years ago. How dare could an award-giving body in the broadcasting industry like the KBP bobble three Awards will claim prestige and excellence when, in fact, the leading player is no longer a part of it? As such, how could the KBP claim that they honor the best and the brightest when it would only recognize the shows and stars of the second tier?

In contrast, just a day before the GMA On-Cinderella Mess Media Awards recognized the country's top television programs and the result were quite the opposite. Now, that's more like the network we like as we all need to and not the lopsided award-giving effect that the KBP adopted of recently to.

(Email: [illegible])

## Fun jam: FrancisM & Maxene

From page A30

is, but routine.

**How far do you think Maxene would go in show biz?**

She did her first commercial at 4. Tried and voted on you—shows his royalty. She got her talent not just from me, but from her grandparents Pandin and Tita Magdalena.

**Maxene**

**Would you like a soiree, like your parents have?**

Our parents don't exactly encourage us to have careers. But it's okay with them. Tatiana took acting classes and did ... though they're in their 40s. Maxene-70 got one like-careers, on the wind.

**What do you think of rap music?**

It's cool. I'm very proud that it was my dad who pioneered rap music in the Philippines. His songs are part of Philippine history. He writes great, inspiring lyrics.

Can you sing "Mga Kabalbalan Ito" and "Kabalbalangin Pala?"

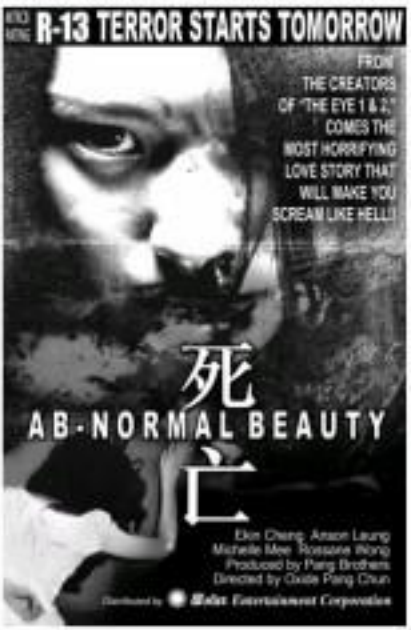
Of course. I sing "Kabalbalangin Pala" with my dad when we do shows together.

**What does your dad sing at home?**

Drink Session tunes. I guess you take in Barnard him. He also listens to The Beatles and Beach Boys.

**Is he a fun dad?**

He's very manageable. He's very hip. But he knows when to be serious and strict.



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LEGEND OF ZORRO
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SPIDERTEXTA
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WALLACE AND GROMIT
SPIDERTEXTA
LEGEND OF ZORRO
DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS
KEANWORD
BLADE OF ROSE

LEGEND OF ZORRO
40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
SPIDERTEXTA
ONE MISSED CALL 2
WALLACE AND GROMIT
DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS

LEGEND OF ZORRO
WALLACE AND GROMIT
INTO THE BLUE
LORD OF WAR

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE




# Exciting month at the CCP

THE CULTURAL CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES has lined up exciting activities and productions for the month of November.

"Dance and Clubbing" is a celebration of children's creative power. Tanghalang Batibot performances include Dec. 8-11 "Myth of King Midas" by the Philippine Playhouse; (Nov. 18-13) "Si Sisi at si Nene" by Sentrong Mulat sa Pilipinas; (Nov. 15-16) "Prinsesa ng Bituin" by Tanghalang Pilipinas; (Nov. 17-18) "Pinocchio Graduate" by Dulaang San Lazo.

In the visual arts, the Philippine Art Educators Association of the Philippines presents the exhibit, "Sining Ilaw: Binatnong Bayan," ongoing till Dec. 7.

Also worth-see for the 2005 National Music Competition for Young Artists is entitled CCP-ternata from Nov. 22 to 27. Categories include college and youth choirs, high school bands, tuba octet, tuba strings, guitar, traditional musical arts, and ballet.

The TOBACCO AGENCIES has discovered many fine young music artists in the past.

Philippine Ballet Theater is staging "Un deceder" on Nov. 10-20.

Arts Therapy workshops Nov. 21-25, Iloilo; on Edsa-ala in Cotabato City, Isabela. Nov. 28-Dec. 2, a Dancing Rising creative improvisation workshop in San Mateo, Isabela.

## Viewfinder

Amber U. Torre

Theater for children, painting exhibits, contests for young artists...

Other shows, for adults and teens: "Writing in the Wings," premiere of new works, the Music Theater Foundation's "Music Matching at the Manila Peninsula" (Nov. 10), and the Tanibul and Theatre Dance Ensemble on Nov. 14.

Late Mrs Cabaret at Bilahpot Hall, Nov. 18 "Broken Lantern Live"; Nov. 20 "A Musical Night with John Arcilla."

Nov. 11, the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra in "Remembering," featuring "Requiem" by Blanquil Briones, "Veni the Diary of Anne Frank" by Richard Tilson Thomas, and "Symphony No. 1 in C minor Op. 21" by Beethoven, Eugene Castillo conducts.

Nov. 11-30, Tanghalang Pilipino's "Hull Mr. Tangere. (The Musical)."

Exhibits: Until Nov. 17, Ronnie Fajardo's retrospective exhibit. Nov. 17 to Dec. 31, "Salon del Castillo: Under One Roof."

Nov. 23, pianist Mary Anne Espiritu concert Filipino Artists Series IV.

Today Nov. 8, screening of the Italian film "Ulysses" (The Nostos) at the Dream Theater.

And, on doll/AM Radio, at 2:45 p.m. on Nov. 11, the award-winning program, "Ingat para ang Kanyajana," focuses on anomalies in the area of overseas employment.


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Reserve your seats on November 10.

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PREMIERE TARIFFS
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"HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE"
OPENS in SHANG CINEPLEX ON NOV. 16
GET YOUR TICKETS IN ADVANCE
STARTING OCT. 26th

Shangri-La Plaza


## New Nickelodeon shows

NICK 06 on the 2 Broadcasts Day (Nov. 16) special on "The Adventures of Jimmy Neutron," the most exciting highlights, log on to www.nickplay.com.

## 'Confessions on a Dance Floor'

IN 1998 new CD, "Confessions on a Dance Floor," Madonna reinvents dance music for our time. Out to arrive in stores on Nov. 21, the new release has nine dance originals.

## Christmas Album

MICHAEL Bolt recently released his first Christmas album. The cuts include "Silver Bells," "Christmas Song," "Nine Bowl" and "Grown Up Christmas List." The album also features the Fifth Gospel Choir and vocal experiences by Jacqui Hughes. Call 757-4726.

## 'Joys of Healing'

"THE JOYS of Healing," an album of songs of praise, gratitude and faith, was adjudged Religious Album of the Year by the Catholic Mass Media awards. It features the voices of Buckwant Arruiz, as well as prayers and words of wisdom from the late Sto Rino Cojuangco. Call 635-3606.

## 'Past Perfect'

THE 2005 MCO arts festival concludes with a concert, "Past Perfect" featuring singers Pinkee Pavia, Eugene Villaluz, pianist Della Avendano Perez, Violet Yeny Magpoc and guitarist Butch Rosas interpreting the hits of George Gershwin, Cole Porter and Richard Rogers, on Nov. 12 at the Francisco Santiago Hall. Call 640-7980, local 2258.

SHOW TIME

## Lea at Carnegie

LEA Salonga makes her Carnegie Hall debut Nov. 7 (this morning, Manila time). The show will benefit Dream City Theater Company, ESCU, a groundbreaking theater company in New York City that promotes diversity in the theater.

The acclaimed singer said of the show: "I've so many years I've walked past this great building, dreaming. But one day I would perform in concert here. It is a place where many theaters have come thru and [now] come will as well."


Araneta Leisure Guide

CINEMA SCHEDULES

Gateway Cineplex 10

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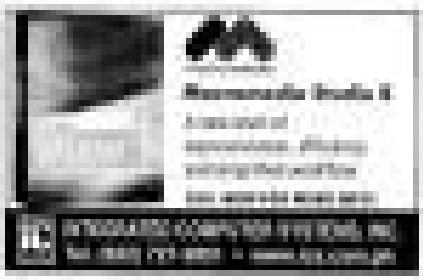
THE LEGEND OF ZORRO
THE FOUR BROTHERS
WAITING
THE GHOST INSIDE
DOMINO
ULTIMATE PLATINUM CINEMA
THE LEGEND OF ZORRO
DEUCE BIGALOW 2
DOOM
SPIDERTEXTA
THE 40 YR OLD VIRGIN
DOMINO

ALI MALL CINEMAS

1 SPIDERTEXTA
2 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO
3 THE FOUR BROTHERS
4 THE GHOST INSIDE
5 DOMINO

ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS




TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2005 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

# BUSINESS

# Forex reserves slip to $18.09B in Oct.

## But still above '05 target

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE COUNTRY'S gross international reserves (GIR) dipped to $18.09 billion in mid-October from an all-time high of $18.34 billion a month due to the servicing of foreign obligations.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. revealed yesterday that while the new GIR level was 1.5 percent lower than the end-September level, the current reserves build-up still exceeded the end-2005 target of $17 billion.

As expected, the decline in the GIR level was attributed mainly to the payments of maturing foreign exchange obligations of the national government and the Bangko Sentral, Tetangco said. "The outflows, however, were partly offset by the Bangko Sentral's foreign exchange operations and income from investments abroad."

The GIR—consisting of the BSP's gross foreign currency holdings, gold reserves, special drawing rights from multilateral institutions and foreign investments—is an indicator of the country's ability to service its foreign exchange requirements for activities like importation and debt servicing.

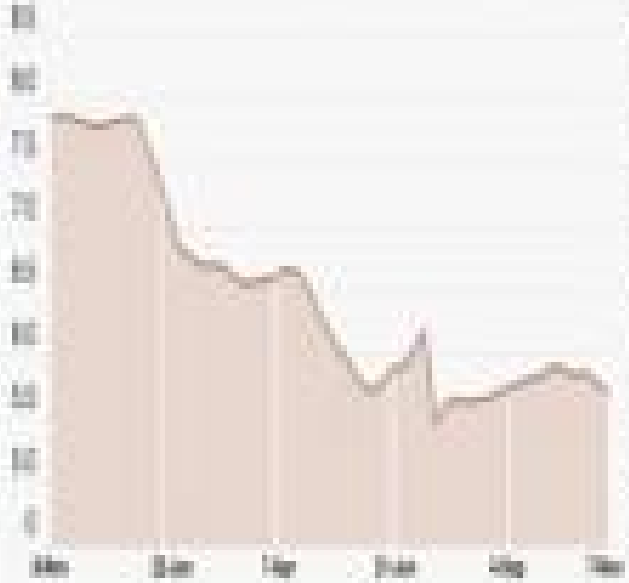
The BSP also dips into its foreign reserves to supply dollars to the spot foreign exchange market whenever there is a need to quell speculative attacks against the peso. A large GIR build-up thus provides psychological support for the peso by improving the BSP's arsenal in the foreign exchange market.

"The end-October GIR level was adequate to cover about four months of imports of goods and payments of services and income," Tetangco said.

"The level was also equivalent to about twenty (by the country's short-term debt based on original maturity and 1.6 times based on residual maturity) times...

FINANCIAL

### 91-DAY TREASURY BILL RATES



## 91-DAY RATE AT 5.698%

# Treasury bill rates decline

By Michelle R. Remo

TREASURY BILL RATES DROPPED across all maturities yesterday as the lingering high liquidity among banks continued, with fresh market optimism brought by the implementation of the new VAT law.

The bellwether 91-day rate fell 14.8 basis points to 5.698 percent. The three-month debt instrument was more than three times oversubscribed, showing strong market appetite.

Tenders for the 91-day bills reached P9.202 billion compared with the government's offering of only P3 billion. The Bureau of Treasury's auction committee accepted P3 billion worth of bids.

"The decline was expected because of the developments on the fiscal side, paramount by the implementation of the new VAT law last Nov. 1," National Treasurer George Cruz said in a briefing after the auctions.

The 182-day bill fetched a rate of 7.028 percent, or 3.4 basis points lower than the previous auction. The six-month government securities attracted the most number of bids, with tenders reaching P8.14 billion compared with the government's offering of only P1.5 billion. The Treasury accepted its entire borrowing schedule for the six-month bill of P1.5 billion.

The rate for the 364-day bills declined by 1.2 basis points to 8.93 percent. Tenders for the one-year bills reached P5.9 billion, or almost three times higher than the P2 billion offering of the government.

Yesterday's auction was the first since the expanded VAT law was implemented last Tuesday. Following five months of suspension by the Supreme Court, officials said both the international and domestic capital markets were awaiting the implementation of the law, which is seen to largely solve the government's lingering fiscal problem.

The law basically expanded the coverage of the tax to include oil and electricity among others, and will raise the VAT rate from 10 to 12 per...

MARKETS

## Ayala Land acquires Zuellig lot

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

PROPERTY GIANT AYALA LAND INC. (ALI) yesterday said it has acquired a 1.2-hectare property in Makati City from the Zuellig Group for swapping shares in a subsidiary worth P397.2 million.

Under the agreement, ALI will swap 11.44 million shares it holds in Ayala Property Group...a real estate firm hosting a 4,000 square meter parcel of land along Makati Ave.

In exchange for these shares, the Zuellig Group, through Sherwater Securities Corp., will get its 11.75 million shares in Cebu Montessa Property Holdings to ALI. Cebu Montessa owns the 1.2-hectare property at the corner of Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. (formerly Buendia) and Malugay St.

Sources said ALI might use the lot it is going for residential projects similar to "Serendra" or...

REAL ESTATE

### CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

$1 = ₱55.48

As of 5 p.m. Nov. 7, 2005

$1 = ¥117.86

As of 5 p.m. Nov. 7, 2005

GOLD: $457.30/OZ

as of yesterday's close

### STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

(Complete market report on Page B3)

### Shares close flat

SHARP PROFESSIONAL PLAY yesterday, marking the latest profit-taking after a six-day rally took the market to three-month highs as investor confidence picked up, dealers said.

MARKETS

### WHAT'S INSIDE

All dressed up and nowhere to grow / B2

An Index-led rally / B3

# All dressed up and nowhere to grow

WHETHER OR NOT THE CITE SCRIPTO-philes of Glorietta see mermaids, criminals, or just plain imaginary ghosts in the CITE, nobody can accuse it of being dull.

Still, by January next year, which is just two months away, the 6-year-old CITE will have to find a new tenant or else close down. The Philippine Tourism Authority will begin the bidding of the property's assets.

And as the government-making-revenue particular: It chose exporting companies, as opposed to the rest of the economy, as the ones to which the new administration is to take the CITE out of the tribal ignominy.

In effect, they think that the death of the CITE will lead to the demise of their industry. That's why they are asking Malacañang to extend the life of the poor innocent CITE for just two more years.

Thinking that they know better than this new administration about their own industry (but they built from research more the past 30 years, those companies are thus trying to give Glorietta one compelling reason to grant the CITE presidential dispensary.

How about, how, without the CITE, the industry will be left to a big vacuum in the ongoing trade talks with countries—to garments and textiles, which are only their own businesses?

I mean, come on, who will do the negotiating? Hollywood Don't tell me it's going to be Jose Mari

---

BUSINESS, at least so the players in the garments industry that I've talked to, they never saw it coming. They had no inkling whatsoever that Glorietta would issue an executive order to abolish the CITE.

After all, back in 1986, the CITE was the first posting in the government of an unknown entrepreneur, scientist Aloria Arroyo.

Still, this new administration never even consulted her.

Let me see if I get this right—so Malacañang, in seeming to make an impression that this new administration is still at top of things, wants to abolish an entity that can help create 200,000 unemployed with multibillion peso investments, exporting roughly $10 billion worth of goods every year, employing about 400,000 people, thus indirectly benefiting some two to three million people all in all, AND THEY DID NOT EVEN INCLUDE IN THE MALACAÑANG EQUATION... neither it?

How could such a crucial measure take the form of laws without the people affected by it even knowing what the heck was going on? Ah, there, let us just abolish the CITE, period.

Last time I checked, we were still under a democracy, and this new administration had yet to make its definitive move for the return of martial rule.

What explains this mysterious and secret measure? Don't tell me that somebody was bent up to destroy any evidence at the CITE or something.

---

BUT THE thing is, the government never even

**BREAKTIME**

*Conrado E. Bengzon III*

spends its own money on the CITE. The garments companies themselves finance the operations of the CITE. They—each and every garments company, whether big or small—must retail all sorts of fees to the CITE.

Let me say it again—private sector money and not the government's, was the CITE. By this alone, the garments sector has all the right in the broad sector matters.

After all, they (as threatened) are saying that the devastating industry needs the CITE to grow.

But why should this new administration care if the garments companies only want to waste their money on CITE's silly activities, such as trade promotion and market development?

Look, other countries are hiring lobby groups in the United States for so-called preferential trade agreements. (Another word for this is "favoritism.")

If you have, in "preferential trade agreement" with, say, the US government, you can sell garments to the world's richest consumers without paying tariffs, for instance.

Just how much are to lobby the US government for it, I mean, such an arrangement does not just happen like an accident of life or an immaculate conception.

---

IF THE world of endless official bowling, you realize have to make it happen.

And the garments sector was thinking that, if given a new look on life, the CITE should fit such a new role in their future it would free trade.

My, I think that we must abolish other useless government outfits, instead of CITE, if we have the decision on their results and performances.

Take the housing outfits. Do we have houses? Squatter colonies are not only sprouting everywhere, they are also sprouting anywhere—even under the flyovers.

Or let's talk about this thing called Napocor. With its monopoly in the power sector for almost 40 years, we are fortunate indeed to have today the second most expensive electricity in all of Asia.

In comparison, the CITE helped create a $20-billion industry. Again, the amount is determined of in dollars.

---

IN THE 20 years of its existence, the CITE also underwent several changes to adapt to the times, so to speak, such as when an co-teacher was in charge.

In fact, the CITE took its form from three executive orders.

**The value of the paradigm of the action stars in** the Senate, those were EO 507, EO 820, and EO 852.

In all those 20 years or so, the CITE and the garments industry might have had miscalculations, if not outright quarrels, particularly in the management of the so-called quota for garments exports.

The relevation given by the US government for Philippine garments exports, for instance, would sometimes just disappear into thin air, perhaps sold by somebody to some favored groups, or distorted to the tolerance of politicos.

By and large, however, the CITE has been effective in encouraging markets abroad for the local garments industry.

How about, you might say, the SIPA? Well, its hands are already tied with some eight to nine million Filipinos working abroad.

---

ANYWAY, soon to be orphaned, the garments industry is searching for ways to have one organized effort to development markets, particularly for the small ones.

The big companies perhaps can take care of themselves, but the small ones should still need government help for things like trade commissions.

As everybody knows, except perhaps Malacañang, exports of garments has become a highly competitive field, since the US removed the quota system in accordance with the IPO.

It's every company for itself now. Because the boutique has become the norm, nobody has to succeed of buyers. You have to go out and seek them.

At the moment, as in strange to mean a matter but our garments, the local industry the thing called "more specific preferential trade agreements."

In other words, the more ones and knows to read on recently for the crumbs of those endless trade talks encompassing everything under the sun, including skin lotion.

They can work on one particular sector, which in their case is of course the garments. This was the approach taken by our neighbor countries like Thailand and Singapore.

The United States and the European Community, for example, have granted trade concessions for garments to countries in Africa and the Baltic, plus South Africa. Recently, the US established similar arrangements with Jordan, Israel, Egypt and Singapore.

Look at that! Just take a look at that! Again—that's Singapore. The last time I checked, Singapore has a per capita income that's several lifetimes ahead of the Philippines.

And Singapore gets concessions from the US in a labor-intensive industry such as garments making, even if their island does not have enough workers.

Singapore has one little secret, and it is a well-funded lobby. From what I heard, the guys there paid some US groups about $1.2 million for the trade concessions lobby.

It is why the garments sector is saying that we still need CITE to work at getting similar concessions—whether US goes to other countries to set equals that are doing better than us, whether did not even suffer from US imperialism. I'm unsure thing like that!

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Learning by Thinking

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## Ayala Land . . .

Continued from B1

"The Columnal" through its subsidiary, Luminosity Innovations Inc. (CIC).

CII is a new All subsidiary focused on serving the property needs of high-income families, professionals and entrepreneurs.

Already on its third year of building low-, mid- and high-rise residential condominiums, factories and low and townhouses that line upkey areas of Makati's central business district and the city's outskirts, CII president Bobby Ty had said that sales of CII have been brisk this year, already breaching the P3 billion mark.

To sustain that growth in growth record, Ty said CII was embarking on a P2-billion, two-more condominium project dubbed "The Columnal Legaspi Village", it signal to its first-selling project along Ayala Avenue.

Ty had said The Columnal Legaspi Village is banking on good location enhanced in a block away from the posh Greenbelt and Glorietta malls from the corner of Ayamonte and Salcedo St.

The Columnal consists of two towers, 41 storeys each, and a total of 780 units ranging in 1,3,000 sq. ft. to.

Legaspi Village is about what part of the central business district, with some than 60 of 1400 of Makati City's 2400 offices located in the village.

## Shares close flat

Continued from B1

The market came off its lows on last minute support, having been down nearly one percent earlier.

The composite index lost 1.68 points to 2,036.45 after trading between 2,017.42 and 2,038.67. Volume was 557 million shares worth P406 million.

Losers led gainers 41 to 37, with 27 stocks unchanged.

"The market is really due for a technical correction. Most counters are overbought," said Jason del Castillo of First Grade Holdings.

The composite index gained more than 6 percent in the past six sessions and dealers said the market had to consolidate following this rally.

"For now, it seems safer for any investor to cash in gains following the run-up but it should be a different story once corporate earnings season starts coming in," Del Castillo said.

Losers in Philippine Long Distance Telephone weighed on the main index. It shed P2.00 or P1.74% on profit-taking after it hit a record high on Thursday.

Analysts said the country's biggest telecommunications firm was expected to report today a record net profit for the nine months to September but in third-quarter results alone may show the impact of slowing growth in a maturing mobile phone market here.

Other gainers include Ayala Land, up 18 centavos to P9 while Universal Apeda Corp. ended unchanged at P2.05.

Bank of the Philippine Islands rose P1.50 to P57.50 while Globe Telecom Inc. fell P1 to P720.

"If shares of San Miguel, actually, is listed and foreign investors, fell 92 to 990 while San Miguel "A" listed to Filipinos, ended unchanged at P95.

# An Index-led rally

LAST YEAR, AT HALLOWEEN, we were at the Bubblegum Ring King at exactly midnight, a spectre appeared dressed in white. It looked around the bar, turned, went into the living room, then the bathroom. Finally, it returned, sat down and introduced itself. I told the management (not meaning that the hotel was haunted but they said it was just the freaking happens).

Three things happen when you get old. The first is that you lose your memory. I forgot the other two. Here is a funny story sent by a reader:

Miss Jones, the church organist was in her eighties and had never been married. One afternoon, the pastor called on her and was shown into her quaint living room. She invited him to sit down and gave him a cup of tea with pasteurized milk. As he sat, fussing the cold pussycats, he noticed a goldfish bowl sitting on top of it, filled with water. In the water floated a condom.

The pastor tried to hide his embarrassment over it got the better of him and he could no longer contain it. "Miss Jones," he said, pointing to the bowl, "I wonder if you could tell me about this."

"Oh yes," she said, "Isn't it wonderful? I was walking down the street about six months ago and I found a small package on the ground. The directions stated to place it on the organ, keep it warm, and it would prevent the spread of disease. And it really works! I haven't had a cold all winter."

* * *

LAST week, many brokers did not show up for work, thinking the market would be dead. They could not have been more wrong.

In those two days, gross turnover tripled to P1.2 billion and the PSEi rose 71 points. Meeting through the 2,000 level. There were two reasons for this remarkable increase in activity, particularly in the blue chips. The first was a no-brainer. The Supreme Court reaffirmed its decision on the SPZ law and it became effective on November 1st. Foreigners were pleased because it had been delayed for months and many of them doubted that it would ever be passed. As analyst in Macquarie Asia said, "There was some skepticism that the government would go through with the EASE [investors have been encouraged by its rate of events." However, this was not the main reason for the sharp rise in the PSEi.

The real reason was that the PSE made unprecedented changes in the index. Normally, every few years, they remove the 5 worst performing stocks and replace them with 5 better quality stocks. This time around, they took out 5 stocks: PNB, EMI, MUSI and ION (all poor performers) plus SOL, a good company but with a small float. They replaced them with BDO, IM, MWC (all POG), PE and PLTL. The latter is a surprise because its float is also small.

Around the world, there are thousands of Mutual Funds. These consist of 2 types: those which can invest in any stocks within the parameters of their prospectus, and Index funds, which have to invest in exactly the same proportion as the index. The index linked funds are popular because the Fund Managers have virtually nothing to think about as changes are few. This enables unit holders to invest relatively small amounts of money yet spread the risk widely.

Any index-linked Fund, which invests in the Philippines or any Asian Fund that has a Filipino content, has to reorganize its portfolio to conform to the new index. This means that they have to sell (between five of the outgoing stocks and BUY the 5 stocks) blue chips were included. This is why SM jumped P25 in three days, PGE broke out of its trading range, and PE, which I recommended for a different reason, had a sharp rise. The switching will take some time and there will be local profit taking, but generally speaking, these 5 stocks should do better than average for the rest of the year.

On Wednesday and Thursday, there was heavy foreign buying, and this not only pushed up the Phisix but also caused the previous appreciate to be born lower in months. The decision of the Bangko Sentral to raise rates by a quarter point also helped support the currency, which for once, has been the best performer in the region. The Baht took into account the new PSEi rate of 4 per cent. "The rate hike was expected," said Governor Tetangco. "Our next assessment will take this into account together with other related factors like liquidity growth and second round effects of higher oil prices and taken on inflation. Tetangco said he is not ruling out the need for further increases in interest rates."

For those readers who would like to know the 30 stocks comprising the new index, they are: ANS, AC, AEV, AGI, BEL, BPC, SPI, CEL, DMC, EPCI, FLI, FPH, GMA, HLCM, ICT, JFC, LC, MBT, MBC, MEB, MPC, PCOR, PMC, SMPH, TEL, plus non-constituents SGIG, IM, MWC, PE and PLTL. Next April, there will be further changes in the Phisix to take into account not only capitalization but also the float. One stock certain to be included will be First Gen, whose prospectus should be announced soon so that it can trade early in December.

The dividend season is upon us and owners readers should be better than the 3rd quarter of 2004 but be careful because there is a tax

(to economy p. 6)

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# BIR seen achieving October collection target

## Resolution of legal issues involving NDMC urged

THE HEARING FOR NORTH EDSA MINING Corp. may have to wait until questions on the legality of its mining claims in Compostela Valley and their overlap with those of Apex Mining Corp. are settled.

Canada's Cova Group, which had just bought Apex, said it is not sure that the case, while pending with the Bureau of Mines and Geosciences regional arbitration panel since 1998, has not yet even gone into the merits and would definitely take years to resolve.

Even ruling by the panel can be appealed by to the Mines Adjudication Board, then to the Court of Appeals, and eventually to the Supreme Court.

"In cases where happened to non-performers, under issued by the panel in 2000 which was finally settled by the Supreme Court only early this year. This order simply defined areas where there was no conflict between the claims of Apex and NDMC.

But where there is conflict, the case becomes a complicated legal maze with a lot of details to be presented going all the way back to the mid-60s through the mental law years when NDMC was still controlled by the filmmaker. Apex is alleging that NDMC's mining claims are illegal and therefore null and void from the beginning.

"It is understood that there legal questions stand in the way of the bidding for NDMC. Apex would like to see the case resolved sooner or but will definitely carry its answer to protect its interest," the statement added.

The company has just been bought by Cova Gold Corp. of Canada and its local affiliate, Majuba Creek Gold Corp. Cova Gold is in the process of expanding its presence internationally. The turnover of Apex to Cova is currently going on. Cova's new management team is now gearing up for full-scale operations by next year.

## Bill on tax perks seen to boost ecozone businesses

THE BASES CONVERSION DEVELOPMENT Authority said a Senate bill providing tax amnesty and incentives to locators to special economic zones in Clark, Subic Bay and Poro Point would boost investments in these areas.

BCDA president Narciso Abaya said the quick passage of the bill, which was approved by the Senate committee on government corporations and public estates, would address the concern of all investors in the economic zones regarding the continued viability of their business enterprises.

Abaya also said the income would ensure the continued availability of employment opportunities for thousands of people depending on the ecozone businesses for a living.

He said more local and foreign investors would be encouraged to put up their businesses in these ecozones.

Clark, Subic Bay and Poro Point ecozones have a total of 447 locators providing jobs to 27,300 people.

In the proposed bill, affected locators in the three ecozones may avail themselves of the amnesty by paying an amnesty tax rate of one percent under one year after the law takes effect. They will then have to pay only 5 percent of their gross income.

BCDA cited the inclusion of critical provisions in the bill requested out by the committee chaired by Sen. Richard Gordon. The bill, which would amend Republic Act (RA) 7227, makes available all the incentives under the Special Economic Zone Act of 1995 to businesses in other special economic zones created under RA 7227.

## Getting a big boost from large taxpayers unit's performance

By Michelle V. Rarus

THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE said it likely met or even surpassed its P46.94-billion target for October, as the agency's large taxpayers service (LTS) unit already exceeded its tax collection goal.

"If the LTS performs well, there is a tendency for the whole BIR to meet its collection target. Since the LTS already exceeded its goal, there is a better chance that the BIR will exceed its goal for October," said Deputy Commissioner Kim Henares, who heads the LTS.

LTS, which collects taxes from the country's biggest corporations, accounts for more than 55 percent of the BIR's total collection.

Henares said the LTS was tasked to collect P16.75 billion for October. Preliminary data showed that the LTS already collected P25.631 billion, or P900 million higher than its target, she said.

The revenue official, however, could not give preliminary data on the BIR's total October collection but said the revenue agency also gained its target.

"The BIR was told by the Department of Finance not to disclose preliminary collection data due to the confusion it created when initial reports in September indicated that collections met or exceeded the target but the final report showed otherwise.

The excess in the LTS' collection in October eases the pressure on the BIR, which was still trying to address some P9.2 billion in cumulative shortfall for the first nine months of the year.

With the huge gap that the BIR still needed to cover, however, officials said it was doubtful that the agency could still meet its P847-billion target for the entire 2001, but they said the shortfall would be reduced to a more tolerable margin.

Henares attributed the better-than-expected revenue collection performance of the LTS to ongoing administrative programs like the Performance Measurement System. Under the program, LTS collectors are regularly evaluated based on a set of weak objectives. Collectors failure to meet a collection goal would lead to disciplinary sanctions.

"People know what is expected of them, and we have an objective basis for evaluating them," she said.

In an effort to plug tax leakages and bring down the revenue shortfall, BIR officers in charge Jesse Mario Bahay is also closely monitoring the operations of certain overseas offices to conduct a special audit of four industries—telecommunications, construction, manufacturing and logistics. This was prompted by reports companies belonging to these industries were claiming tax refunds for VAT credits.

DTI CAMPAIGN VS UNCERTIFIED GOODS. Trade Secretary Peter B. Favila (center), Undersecretary for Consumer Welfare Zenaida C. Maglaya (right) and deputy Manila Mayor Lito Atienza (left) inspect a truck-load of uncertified products including Christmas lights, computer lamps, electrical sockets, flat irons and extension cords from eight malls in Divisoria Mall recently. The DTI is waging a vigorous campaign against unscrupulous businesses that are robbing Filipino consumers of their hard-earned money and compromising their safety by selling unsafe, uncertified and substandard products. The eight establishments were slapped with administrative charges for violating Republic Act No. 4109 or the Standards Law, and Section 6 of Department Administrative Order (DAO) 2: 1992, which prohibits the sale of critical products that are unlicensed by the DPS.

## Moody's upgrades credit ratings of 4 local companies

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE DEBT RATINGS OF PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. and Globe Telecom Inc. have been upgraded by Standard & Poor's.

Realizing that the telecom giants are well insulated from the political uncertainties in the country, S&P revised its ratings on PLDT and Globe to BB plus with a stable outlook from BB negative with a negative outlook. PLDT has about $2 billion in debts while Globe has about P900 million.

San Miguel Corp's rating improved to BB with a negative outlook from B+ positive with a positive outlook. That of Universal Robina Corp. was set at BB with a stable outlook, from BB minus with a negative outlook.

All four are now rated above the sovereign debts, which remained at BB negative with a negative outlook.

A rating upgrade tends to bring down the cost of the rated firm's borrowing as it indicated lower risks, giving investors less reason to demand a higher return for their placements.

A rating upgrade will benefit Globe, which is refinancing millions of dollars in debt. PLDT, however, said it would not tap new borrowings but would continue paying down obligations. San Miguel and URC have indicated plans to tap the debt market for their expansion.

"These entities tend to demonstrate weaker leverage, strong free cash flow generation and competitive business profiles," S&P said, referring to the 23 companies across Asia and Latin America that received a rating boost.

S&P said the political progress in the Philippines or elsewhere did not derail the prospects of companies whose ratings have improved in investment grade.

"In addition, we believe that sovereign entities that are rescued and will benefited from direct and indirect sovereign risks may achieve a foreign currency rating that exceeds the sovereign foreign currency rating," said the credit rating agency in statement.

PLDT, Globe, SMC and URC were among the 30 Asian firms that got ratings upgrade. S&P also upgraded the ratings of 11 companies in Latin America.

Globe's upgrade was surprising considering that it was one of those that S&P had earlier named in its list of firms for potential downgrades this quarter. The two others are the sovereign debts and Philippine Electric Co.

Moody's Investors Service raised in July the four Globe's debt rating to Ba2 from Ba3, recognizing that Singapore Telecom, a stakeholder of the phone giant, could help boost Globe's capacity to settle its debts. Ayala Corp. is another major stockholder of Globe.

Moody's said last month it might do the same to PLDT's $1.3 billion worth of debts by early 2006 in line with the company's improving financial profile.

MEDIUM-TERM SOLUTION

## ₱3.3-B Cebu-Negros interconnection project OKd

By Abigail L. Mo

THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND DEvelopment Authority investment Coordination Committee (NedaICC) has approved National Transmission Corp.'s (Transco's) P3.3-billion Cebu-Negros interconnection project, paving the way for the awarding of the contract to the winning bidders.

Transco president and chief executive Ma Ilisa Ortiz said two contractors would be working on the project: Japan's Kanematsu Corp. for the submarine cables and China's Elan Electric for the overhead lines and substations.

The signing of the contracts between Transco and the contractors should take place soon as all necessary approvals for the project had already been secured.

The project forms part of Transco's Cebu-Negros-Panay (CNP) interconnection and capacity upgrading project, which involves the doubling of the Visayas 138-megawatt (MW) capacity of the Cebu-Negros and Negros-Panay lines to transmit power between the Visayas islands.

The completion of the entire CNP project will pave the way for the increased use of indigenous power from geothermal energy-endowed Leyte and offer a medium-term solution to the looming power crisis in the Visayas.

The Cebu-Negros component involves the installation of a 109-kilometer, 138-kilovolt (kV) overhead transmission line and a 17.4-km sub-sea cable connecting Transco's Santander substation in Cebu and the Amlan substation in Negros Oriental.

The component was originally priced at P12.7 billion but was scaled down to only P3.3 billion by eliminating one building, some relocation and the 69-kV Dalin-Bunay line from the project plan, Ortiz said.

While already prepared to award the contracts for the Cebu-Negros project, he said Transco was still awaiting the Neda-ICC approval for the Negros-Panay component of the CNP project.

Upon the issuance of the Neda-ICC approval, he said the project should be placed on the auction block by the first quarter of next year. The project is expected to be completed between 2003 and 2004.

The Negros-Panay project will double the transfer capacity of the existing 70.8-km sub-sea cable from 300 MW to 300 MW.

This component of the CNP project had been deferred due to budgetary constraints.

The approval of an increase in Transco's 2000-2015 capital expenditure budget to P850 million from only P500 million, however, enabled the state firm to prioritize the project.

## Mr. Bearbull

Front page 83

decay for stocks to run up ahead of results season, but there are good selling points if there are up to expectation. We are witnessing this phenomenon in Wall Street.

In the U.S., the Fed is still concerned with inflation, which has risen from 2.4 percent to 2.8 percent and the latest figures show an 8-cents an hour increase, equivalent on 6 percent year-on-year. Only 56,000 new jobs were created there if they is purely attributable to heavier Gasoline. GDP for the 3rd quarter rose from 1.3 percent to an unexpected 2.8 percent. In the economy remains in good shape and the FED will continue to increase rates further. Greenspan will be retiring next January but his successor will find that there is no change in policy."

The World Bank raised its economic growth forecast from 6 percent to 6.2 percent, citing faster-than-expected expansion in China. Its economy is expected to grow at 9.2 percent, 1 percent higher than estimated. South Korea was cut from 4.2 percent to 3.8 percent, and Thailand from 5.1 percent to 4.2 percent. Next year, China is expected to slow down modestly to 8.7 percent and the Philippines to remain at 5 percent.

One of the results of changing the index has been to move up the weights of the big brokers. This has gone 19 accounts positions, all to within one day usually in advance. Fortunately, the individual stocks are not affected but I have moved to a more calculated system. This one shows daily, the closing price, dialogue, risk factor and recent support and resistance levels. It's all the index stocks, ranged from 25 to 35. This makes it easier to make decisions on when to BUY and SELL. It also shows in detail the stocks that foreign brokers are buying and selling.

The latest improvement is to add every week, the 3-year price targets of all the blue chips as reviewed by the major foreign brokers. This is particularly useful because it is they who control the markets. So if you BUY those stocks whose price targets are well above the market, this means that you will be buying the stocks, which are rated as having the greatest potential for capital appreciation over the next 12 months.

mrbearbull@hotmail.com

## Forex reserves slip to $18.09B in Oct.

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Short-term debt based on residual maturity pertains to outstanding short-term external debt on original maturity plus principal payments on medium- and long-term loans of the public and private sectors falling due within the next 12 months.

Net international reserves, inclusive of revaluation of reserve assets and reserve-related liabilities, declined to $17.25 billion from $17.7 billion a month ago.

The BSP aims to further build up its GIR to at least $18.65 billion by next year despite pressures from mounting medium- and long-term loans of the public and private sectors falling due within the next 12 months.

Despite a rating trade deficit partly due to the skyrocketing oil import bill, the BSP expects the country to continue benefiting from strong foreign exchange flows particularly from the remittances of overseas Filipino workers.

Given the build-up in the GIR level projected for next year, the BSP expects its balance of payments (BOP) and current account to remain in a surplus.

The BOP measures the foreign exchange transactions between the economy and the rest of the world. Its major components are the current account and the capital and financial account.

## T-bill rates decline

Front page 83

rest starting January 2006. The law is estimated to generate P81.4 billion in additional revenues annually for the government.

Gross said the market remained highly liquid, especially because of the maturing government securities, which banks usually reinvest in government securities. He said these rates about P18.8 billion in maturing treasury bills in the last two weeks, but that the government offered a total of only P4.3 billion worth of debt paper.

"This liquidity augurs well for the auctions outlook for the rest of the year," Gross said.

He added that the decision of the Treasury to cancel some of the last four auctions for treasury bonds (but one further booked up liquidity, and would have a continued decline in interest rates.

Saying the national government is awash with cash, the Treasury said it was studying the possibility of cancelling treasury bill auctions slated for December.

# BUSINESS

## LTO collects ₱8.1B in 9 mos

THE LTO registered 4.3 million vehicles in the first nine months this year against 4.07 million a year ago.

By Clarissa L. Batino

THE LAND TRANSPORTATION Office collected 39.12 billion in the first nine months of the year, up 7.42 percent from 37.55 billion a year ago.

LTO chief Asmín Lontoc said the collection pace the agency on track to meeting its revenue target for the year of ₱5.2 billion.

Lontoc, however, said the increase in the agency's collection this year was slower than the 16 percent recorded the previous year because 2004 was the last year of the implementation of the road users' tax.

The road users tax or the Motor Vehicle Users' Charge requires motorists to pay increasing vehicle registration fees starting 2003.

The road users' tax was collected for the LTO but it was remitted to an account managed by a group called the Road Board.

The road users' tax considered the type and age of the vehicle. Older ones are taxed more.

The funds, estimated at about ₱5 billion, were supposed to pay for the maintenance of national and provincial roads, minimize air pollution, finance the acquisition of traffic lights.

"Any increase now is just attributed to the increase in vehicle sales and our efficiency in collection," Lontoc said in an interview.

LTO is in charge of licensing motorists and registering vehicles and is one of the government's biggest revenue collectors.

The LTO registered 4.3 million vehicles in the first nine months for the year against 4.07 million a year ago.

The agency issued 2.65 million licenses and permits in the first three quarters, up 5 percent against 2.52 million in the same period last year.

Previously, licenses and permits issuance went up 10.02 percent.

Lontoc also pointed out that last year, the LTO sold vanity plates that yielded ₱20 million for the agency.

The continuing sale of plates should generate about ₱1 billion for the government in five years.

But of the LTO's revenue this year also came from apprehension due to traffic violations, for instance.

In the first nine months, the agency handled 567,406 cases of apprehensions, up 17.76 percent against 481,860 a year ago.

Lontoc added that due to reforms to make operations more efficient, the LTO manufactured only 379,219 pairs of vehicle plates, down 40 percent from 583,262 pairs of plates a year ago.

The DOJ had pledged to increase its fees and charges this year but it failed to get support.

The government felt it had to cushion the impact of increasing gross increases, primarily due to oil price hikes, thus deferred measure to collect fees and charges.

Lontoc said the CEO had not raised its fees and charges for the last 10 years.


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## Chinese firms to bid for Surigao project

By Christine A. Gaylican

CHINESE MINING FIRMS have qualified to bid for the contract to join state-owned Natural Resources Mining Development Corp. in the development of the Silangan Island chromite reservation project in Surigao's Hinatuan.

Mining firms qualified to join NRMDC in the project are CR203 Mining Corp., SRI Mining and Energy Corp., Subino Processing Corp., DFJ Mining Group Inc., AAM Philippine Natural Resources, Kinko Fuhi Mining and Development Corp. and the United Philippines-China, according to the NRMDC's Bids and Awards Committee.

The bid proposals will be evaluated by the bids and awards committee anchored board of NRMDC.

The technical board's recommendation will be subject to the final approval of the PBMDC Board of Directors chaired by the DENR.

The PBMDC has been searching for a joint venture partner to help it develop the Silangan chromite reservation covering 9,775 hectares.

The project covers two areas: Parcel 1 at the 600-hectare area in Barangay Esperanza, Lanuza, and Parcel 2 covers 9,175 hectares on the southern tip of the island.

MMSD president Armando Imbis said the corporate arm of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources was already in its financial scheme, the Development Bank of the Philippines, to go into strategic joint venture arrangements with interested partners to handle the P6 billion project.

"The reservation is a good source of metallurgical chromite that could be used in fabricating and chrome plating of steel products," Imbis told the business in reservation.

He said that 1,000 metric tons per week/chrome ore-scale operations are the project aim.

Based on studies conducted by the United Nations Development Program during the 1980s and the 1990s, there are 1.5 million metric tons of high-grade deposits in this government reserve waiting to be tapped.

"We believe it is time that we develop the potential of the 10-island mineral reserve, to take advantage of the big demand for chromite and copper in China," Imbis said.

The final submission of the proposal from investors is on Nov. 16.

Join us for a glorious night of Hungarian operettas.

In 2005, the 16th Toyota Classics brings you something entirely new and infinitely exciting – Hungarian operetta, which offers magnificent performances of singing, dancing and instrumentals reflecting exquisite Hungarian culture. This year's tour is performed by the Budapest Operetta Theatre Orchestra, conducted by István Silló and features soprano Zsuzsa Kalocsai, winner of the TZ Rose award in Munich, Germany, and tenor Zoltán Nyári, recipient of the Ishtar Abzug Award. The concert will also present a solo performance from renowned Filipina soprano, Ms. Alegria Ocampo Forero. Come, join the Toyota Classics and enjoy an unforgettable musical experience with one of Europe's finest operettas.

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## Aboitiz firm posts 37% profit hike as of Sept.

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

ABOVEVER EARNINGS OF ITS power, food and banking subsidiaries in the first nine months enabled holding firm Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc. to post a 37 percent increase in net profit to ₱3.48 billion.

Based on the latest financial report, sources said AEV recorded a net income of ₱956 million in the third quarter, up 31 percent from last year.

AEV's electric power business contributed ₱1.76 billion to the company's income from January to September 2005, up 36 percent over the same period last year.

All of its power distribution utilities registered a significant earnings growth, contributing ₱834 million to total earnings, or up 56 percent year-on-year.

Power generation also contributed ₱901 million, up 64 percent.

The banking group chipped in ₱31 million to AEV, a 26 percent improvement over the first nine months of 2004.

Union Bank of the Philippines also recorded firm growth in its treasury business, while its asset recovery group helped increase its lending assets base.

Total assets grew by 23 percent year on year.

Pilmico Foods Corp. (PFC), AEV's food manufacturing subsidiary, posted a 17 percent increase in its earnings, nonetheless, reaching to ₱331 million.

Its flour, feeds and farms businesses all registered improved operating margins over last year.

The transport group, on the other hand, contributed a net loss to AEV of ₱87 million in the first nine months.

Although its revenues for the period were up slightly over last year, due to higher operating costs, particularly in fuel and depreciation expense, offset any revenue gain.

Manila Transport Agency Corp. (MTC) recently secured SEC approval to acquire Mindanao-based transport businesses in logistics, cartage, drop management, and air freight.

## DOE to pursue dev't of Malampaya oil

By Abigail L. Ho

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY is pursuing plans to give state-run Philippine National Oil Co. Exploration Corp. (PNOC-EC) the right to extract oil from the Malampaya Deep Water Gas-to-Power project.

"We're working on an EO to allow the state-run PNOC-EC of the Contract for the extraction of the Malampaya oil," Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said. "We need that EO because we need the legal basis for directing PNOC-EC to undertake the extraction contract."

PNOC-EC, which holds a 16 percent interest in the Malampaya natural gas project, remained the only shareholder interested in extracting and developing the Malampaya oil reserves.

Other consortium members (Shell Philippines Exploration BV [Spex] and Chevron Texaco Malampaya LLC) had earlier relinquished their right to the Malampaya oil rise as they did not deem the project commercially viable.

Rolando Bery, consortium spokesperson and Spex general manager for external affairs, had earlier said that since the oil reserves expected to yield only around 25 million barrels of oil, the $700 million to $900 million needed to extract and develop it was hardly worth the risk.

"There's a high probability of having only 400 to 500," he said.

He added that once the oil was located beneath the Malampaya gas, the very essence of the entire Service Contract 38 (SC-38), covering the oil would phase as rule the Malampaya gas reserves, which, under current production, supplies natural gas to three gas-fired power plants with a total capacity of 3,300 megawatts.

Due to these reasons, the consortium members, in a letter to Lotilla in mid-September, basically gave up their rights to the oil site, subject to certain safeguards that would protect their investments in the gas find.

STILL cookin' at 88 /C3

LIFESTYLE

Editor: Cheche Bocobo-Formoso

MONDAY ARTS & BOOKS • TUESDAY FITNESS • WEDNESDAY ZEST • THURSDAY FOOD • FRIDAY FASHION & BEAUTY

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

## *Side leg lift with inward rotation*

FIRMS AND TONES THE HIP muscles.

Equipment

Exercise mat and ankle weights (optional)

Instructions/technique

1. Lie on your side with one arm under your head, the other arm on the floor for balance, and both knees bent in a 45-degree angle.

2. Inhale as you raise your top leg as high as you can without touching the floor and the sole of your foot is facing the ceiling.

3. Straighten your leg at first with your toes and higher than hip level.

4. Do the desired number of repetitions then do the other side.

Performance tips

1. Avoid pulling your knee toward your chest. To make sure that you are doing it right, your knee should be about touching the floor and your foot pointing to the ceiling.

2. Avoid using jerky sudden movements. Use slow deliberate, moves so the hip muscles have to work harder.

Repetitions

Do 15-20 repetitions per side.

# Put your best foot forward

WELL AND GOOD

Nina Terry

ON AN AVERAGE DAY, YOU take 5,000 to 10,000 steps. Multiply that by the number of days you've been walking, and you've taken a lot of steps. Even if you're not a runner, you're putting a lot of pressure on your feet.

If you run, jump, or do high-impact activity, the force is seven to eight times your body weight. And, even though your feet are engineering marvels designed to bear this load, they are still susceptible to injuries.

Women create their own problems by torturing their feet with shoes that are too small, too narrow, or too high. Pointy shoes and high heels are notorious culprits, and to somehow a pain in the knee, back. The "wins" posture (arched back and protruding buttocks) achieved with high heels is actually a compensation mechanism so you don't fall flat on your face with every step you take.

A University of Southern California study found 88 percent of female subjects wearing shoes too small for their feet. Dr. George Gaskin, orthopedic and sports medicine doctor at St. Luke's Hospital and Sports and Fitness Clinic in Alabang, said majority of foot problems among his female patients were due to shoes that were too small or narrow.

A woman wearing inconsiderate shoes all the time will suffer foot injuries during exercise (even if conditions are perfect because she is starting out on the wrong foot, so to speak.

Data for men and women with anatomical problems like flat feet, high arches or pronated feet (feet that roll inward), and uneven leg length. Think of your feet as car tires. "If it is not properly aligned, it (tire) will not last long.

**Heel**

Pain in the heel, "plantar fasciitis" in medical terms, is the most common type of foot pain.

Plantar fasciitis is the inflammation of the fascia or connective tissue from the heel to the ball of the foot.

The pain starts as a tender spot on the arch near the heel. It is worse in the morning when you get out of bed but gets better later in the day. The pain returns if you do any kind of vigorous or prolonged activity like aerobics, running or dancing.

Heel pain may be caused by any weight-bearing activity without the right shoes, doing too much of the same or new activity, being overweight, anatomical malalignments, standing for long periods in high heels or thin-soled flat shoes, and inflexible calves/Achilles tendon (at the back of the ankle).

Plantar fasciitis can be prevented by stretching the calves and plantar fascia daily. This is a must if you are into regular vigorous exercise or sport. To stretch the calves, position your toes on

(C3)

> *Women create problems with shoes that are too small, too narrow, too high*

## New help for menopausal women

MENOPAUSE IS A NATURAL, IRRITABLE stage in a woman's life.

**To women should learn to cope with** changes both in mind and body by learning more about the condition.

**Products are available to ease symptoms** like hot flushes, night sweats, vaginal dryness, mood swings and unique outbursts.

One new product may be particularly helpful for vaginal dryness. Ovina is a water-based lubricant to help relieve pain caused by vaginal dryness. Specially formulated for menopausal women, it can help women enjoy life even during menopause, considered the official end of reproductive years.

But even at this stage, modern women continue to lead active lives managing family and career, while engaging in various social activities. Experts say women need help in coping with this exciting and rewarding time in their lives.

# Put your best foot forward

Front page C1

top of a stair rung and slowly lower your heel.

**To stretch the plantar fascia,** sit down and extend one leg in front of you. Plunge belt or towel around your toes and pull them toward you. Hold the stretches for 30-60 seconds. Do once a day for prevention. If you already have plantar fasciitis, do sets every hour throughout the day until the pain heals.

### Ball

The symptoms are a burning or numb feeling in the ball of the foot. It is caused by repeated pressure in that area squishing the toes together. Women are at usual victims because they tend to choose shoes that are too small, narrow, tight, or high.

Sonic women's choices small shoes because they think big feet are unfeminine or they are in denial about their shoe size. Not usually get bigger after pregnancy because of sudden weight gain and may never regain their original size.

**The simple solution** is to wear shoes wide enough for your feet. The toes should be able to wiggle inside your shoes, athletic or otherwise.

### Orthotics

People with anatomical foot problems should consult an orthopedic doctor for the right kind of orthotics (special insoles inserted into shoes). There are three basic types—cushioning if you need more padding in the soles, support for flat or high arches, and combination providing cushioning and support.

**People with uneven leg lengths** usually need a lift in the shorter leg. Otherwise, pain will develop in the foot of the longer leg. People with pronated feet need orthotics or rubber shoes that will control the inward rolling of their feet.

A simple way to check if you are at risk for foot problems because of anatomy is to wet your foot and walk across any dry surface. If the wet mark shows the whole foot, it is flat. If only part of the foot, you have high arches.

### High heels

**Women with a shoe addiction** are not likely to give up their high heels easily. Here are some tips from Francesca Thompson, an orthopedic surgeon specializing in foot and ankle problems, interviewed many years back by Vogue magazine.

- Use a conditioning orthotic to lessen the impact on the front of the foot.
- Stretch daily to lengthen the calf muscle.
- Alternate high heels with low heels.

Thompson adds, "My advice about heels is to wear them sparingly... limit it like a hot fudge sundae."

And from the Johns Hopkins Medical Newsletter: "Wearing comfortable shoes that fit well is the first line of defense in preventing foot problems. Foot width may increase with age, so have your feet measured before buying shoes. Buy shoes with shock-absorbent soles and good padding in the heels. Low-heeled shoes are most comfortable and less damaging to the feet than high-heeled shoes. How much you weigh also plays an important role in whether you develop foot pain. Losing weight will take pressure off tired, sore, tensed feet."

*The Association of Fitness Professionals of the Philippines will hold its annual national convention* [illegible] *Call Joy at 8917-5182/892 or 9262762.*

# Manila hosts international congress of heart, lung surgeons

THE 37TH BIENNIAL CONGRESS OF THE Association of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgeons of Asia will be held from 20-22 at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

Pearls interested surgeons in thoracic and cardiovascular surgery and critical care specialties will discuss the latest developments in these fields of medicine.

Topics include treatment of lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, esophageal surgery, aortic aneurysms and dissections, congenital heart surgery, surgery for the failing heart, valve, coronary, re-do cardiac, minimally invasive surgery, medical presentations, heart and lung transplantation and other illnesses of the pulmonary and cardiovascular system, as well as the management of the critically ill patients.

Visit www.stss.org, e-mail info@stss.org, call 9109836 and 9262461 local 8218, or text 0928 5136638 and 0917 9995377.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
TV GUIDE
Tuesday, November 8, 2005

SEE IT FIRST ON ABC

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

AFRIC'S children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren with (seated) Rubirth Lukarga, Jocelyn de Jesus, Alvin Reynoso, Armand Fukuda, Rina David and Julia Yap

CARLOS Araton with Sylvia Sison in Pigs and Tina Reynoso

DONA Lalong, architect Pablito Perello and Erlinda Reynoso-Arcadio

# 88 years young and still cookin'

POPULAR taipan Mam Sy with eye-catcher Carol Sy, Marilen Espiritu, Marinela Fukuda, (standing) Karen and Edna Araton

SEATED: Aurea Mares with Marinela Ortigas. Standing: Pechela Higueras and Reina Legarda

CARPERS at the La Mesa Ecopark, venue for ABS-CBN Foundation's Family Wellness Festival, Nov. 12-13

SHE IS A LADY OF GRACE AND CHARM, known for her love of good food.

So, on her birthday, Doña Alicia Valdes nee de Reynoso, "Lola Alice" to her numerous relatives, not only celebrated "double eight" at the posh Manila Polo Club's Turf Room with a grand dinner, but also launched her much-anticipated cookbook, "The Reynoso Plate...80 Years of Lola Alice's Cooking" published by her daughter, voracious reader and writer Rubirth Lukarga.

Very few people her age can accomplish the awesome double feat, pulang-pu. Brilliant Doña Nga-Bunta seems to be made for her book. "From her, we learn poise, powerful lessons to learn. The publisher she signalled for the love list and she does cuisines. The large-heartedness that pervades family values, enriching together-ness and cooking it into a living legend!"

**Rina Jimenez-David** said: "There's lots at hand in this volume, many year's worth, of recipes that have graced the tables of family, friends and thousands of satisfied customers."

**Dominic Torres-Bautista** added: "You never leave her presence with an empty stomach and your heart is full of memories of her reminiscences."

## Valuable training

Turning a beautiful 88, she basks in the glory of having trained her nine children in entrepreneurship and the value of hard work (even if they were all born with a golden spoon). Most of her children and grandchildren now run top, super successful restaurants and fast-food outlets.

Among her children's first loosers in the culinary field is my colleague Lorrie, a graduate of the prestigious Le Cordon Bleu in Paris, and top chef/caterer for 17 years at the Art Institute of New York, formerly the New York Restaurant School. **Sylvia Reynoso-Gala**, a graduate of the renowned Academie de Gastronomie and the Institut Charcuterie Beau Cedre in Switzerland, has run her own culinary school since the early '70s. Erlinda Reynoso-Arcadio has been a certified Pelican Stitched to perfection in the country today. She travels twice a year from her home in California to Makati to teach cake decorating and sausage-making at Living Well and Gourmet's in Rockwell and her sister Sylvia's cooking school.

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

*Maurice Arcache*

Photos by Kitty Yuet Hugnen using **Kodak** EasyShare

It was a fab happening. Invitees enjoyed the excellent dishes, superbly prepared by the club's Turf Room. Copies of the book brought for the launching were sold out.

The big question now when Lola Alice's "Reynoso Plate Part 2" would come out. Check out Doña Alice's must-have cookbook at National Bookstore branches.

## Annual ball

The circle-extended women of the 19 tennis for Cultural Concerns of the Philippines (TCCP) dedicate themselves to the support of our talented artists, audience-development and scholarship for deserving young talents. "Our biggest project this year is to donate a booth to the National Art Gallery of the National Museum," said president Mel-Ita Mañalac, pictured.

The TCCP will have its annual fundraising ball, "Carnevale Veneziano," Nov. 8, at the SMC Tent, Fort Bonifacio.

Proceeds of this year's carnevale event will go to the National Museum, Philippine Research for Developing Instrumental Artistic, Cultural Center of the Philippines and Performing and Visual Artists.

Chair of the project is Helen Ong, assisted by president Mañalac and director Nenet Lacsamana, plus members. It's for a good cause, people. Be there.

Other helping hands are Gilcopie Asia, Perry Kiaia, Mail Publishing Unlimited, Ernst Hilp Travel Advertising, Rotan Global, Cats Motors, inc. Glen Arts and Antiques, Lia Fabian Furniture, Dipeda Philippines, Inco Electronic and Globe Telecom.

## Wellness

The Santay Kalikasan Program, a project of the ABS-CBN Foundation, will host this year's most exciting family event, The Family Wellness Festival, "Live, Love and Learn!" at the La Mesa Ecopark, Nov. 12-13.

Wellness lectures will have the speakers that gal who answered it all, Bimbai paper no less, emerging director of ABS-CBN Foundation Inc. **Mariel Francisco**, native founder of Cinnamon Tree Asia, fitness guru and health columnist, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Inner Sense Publication Inc. Jon Sanvictores, PhD in Anthropology Connecticut, Fr. Efren Bautistaan, candidate PhD in both sides of the law in Ateneo's Law the pastors. The process took a full 20 months.

Afterwards, I felt nauseated. When I stood up, I hardly made a few steps before collapsing in a trance. My dentist was shocked. She thought I had a heart attack. I managed to tell her not to worry. I said I was just allergic to infection from the X-ray machine.

I said the worst happened when I was in a strong stingy field. She gave me a tablet to neutralize the effects of radiation.

My type of treatment is then standard procedure in case but should not be ignored. The consequences can be fatal.

I hope the incidents make medical practitioners think when conducting tests.

*Note: The next issue (Med Devil-opment seminar will be held 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Mrs. 12/13, Rm. 208 Pelaez Hall, 190 Quezon St., Makati City (8107240 or 8928400 for details.*

THE ATIENZA family: Camille Reynoso-Atienza with Maria Jack, Charli and Nikki Atienza and Baby Arianna Lim

CONNIE Gonzalez Arzaren and Beth Lacson

# The cure may be worse than the disease

INNER AWARENESS

*Jaime T. Licauco*

DESPITE SAY THE THING LEAD-ing cause of deaths in the United States a standard drugs legally administered by doctors. There is even a name for the illness caused by doctors - "iatrogenic disease."

I had a scary experience recently that could have been fatal. I was in a well-known hospital in the suburbs on the advice of my cardiologist to determine what was causing my blood pressure to fluctuate despite strong medication.

A routine state of my heart was done to see if there were clogged arteries. The test required injection of radioactive isotope and intravenous administration of a drug — Persantine or Dipyridamole — to dilate blood vessels.

## Side

The cardiologist at the Station Medicine unit explained beforehand what was to be done and what effects the drug would have. He said the drug was very safe and only a very small dose would be injected.

But I was worried because of my extreme sensitivity to drugs, electricity, electromagnetic fields and cable wiring. The doctor assured me the drug was perfectly safe, and "I will be monitoring you and we have an antidote to the drug, in case something happens."

As the nurse administered the drug, the doctor monitored my blood pressure and heart beat, taking every few seconds how I felt. As the drug was injected, I felt a strange sensation and my head swirled.

The doctor said it was normal and the nurse continued. I told her to stop but the doctor said "just a little more" as my blood vessels would be dilated for the nuclear scan.

When the dosage reached 14.6 mg, about half the normal dose, my heart started pounding. I felt nauseous, my breathing became labored, and my blood pressure shot up.

I told the doctor, "I warned you I am very sensitive to medicines." My heart started to pound more hard. I is active blood pressure continued to go up. I called for my wife, my attending physician and the hospital.

My attending physician asked what happened. He saw the monitor going berserk. Somebody ordered for oxygen to be given to me. An antidote was probably injected and my vital signs returned to normal.

## Sensitive

Before that test was administered, I told the cardiologist and nurses in the nuclear medicine unit two incidents showing how sensitive I was to cardiovascular.

The first happened in the early '80s in Tokyo, Japan. Dr. Hiroshi Motoyama, founder of a research institute on parapsychology and religion, asked if I wanted my energy body analyzed by a machine he invented, the Ignition for Meridian Identification Unit (IMI).

The machine proved the existence of Chinese acupuncture points and chakras or psychic centers. It involved the attachment of electrodes to certain parts of the body, like the feet, legs, chest and head. A very small amount of electricity then passed through the body and a computer printed out the findings.

I told Dr. Motoyama's assistants beforehand I was extremely sensitive to electromagnetic fields. The technicians merely smiled and said, "Don't worry. Nobody ever notices the electricity is already on because it is very low."

After all electrodes were in place, the current was turned on. I felt it immediately but did not say anything. It was not unpleasant. After two to three minutes, I felt light, as if I were going out of my body. It was the same sensation I felt when going into trance.

I told the technician to turn off the electricity because I was going out of my body. He asked for a few seconds more. Just as I blacked out, he turned off the machine. It took me a few minutes to return to full waking consciousness.

When Dr. Motoyama analyzed the printout, he said results showed my astral body was very loose so I went out of the body at one instance easily. He said most of thousands of people tested by the IMI machine, only a Tibetan monk, made it into himself, went into a trance or out of the body.

The second incident happened early this year. It is dentist's clinic. I was going to have a panoramic tooth X-ray. It was a first for me so I had no idea what it entailed. I didn't ask any questions.

The panoramic X-ray required that the apparatus went completely around the head and face in a horizontal direction while the patient was seated. A harness was attached